LEARNING / H4
What I've learned: Kitty Go says get to playground early

SPORTS / A25
Bolt rips record in 100m dash

ACROSS / A14
A day in the life of a refugee in North Cotabato

Olympic champ screamed in first swimming lessons

REIJING—MICHAEL PHELPS GREW UP here drawn to a swimming pool.

For day after day, year after year, he practiced in his club pool, building his strength, perfecting his technique and feeding his ambition to redefine the boundaries of his sport.

On Sunday, all the hard work paid off when he won his eighth gold medal at the Beijing Olympics, beating Mark Spitz's 36-year record of seven golds for a single Games and earning himself a place in the pantheon of all-time sporting greats.

OLYMPIC A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
ENLIGHTENED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Monday, August 18, 2008 ★ Vol. 22 / No. 254

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED American Michael Phelps hugs his mother Debbie (left) after receiving his eighth Olympic gold medal at the Water Cube in Beijing. Also on hand to congratulate the champion is his sister Hilary

GOLDEN MOMENTS Phelps draws off the eight gold medals he won in the 400m individual medley, 200m freestyle, 200m butterfly, 200m individual medley and 100m butterfly, and in the team 4x100m freestyle, 4x200m freestyle, and 4x100m medley relay

8 Olympic golds, 8 swim records for Phelps

By Ted S. Melendres
Inquirer Sports Editor

BEIJING—EIGHT GOLD MEDALS in eight events. Eight Olympic and seven world swimming records. Fourteen victories in two Summer Games.

Bow that and be a god in Olympic—that place in ancient Greece where the Olympics were first played in 776 B.C. to honor God of Thunder Zeus and where gods—according to myth—competed against each other in foot race, boxing and archery.

Legend does not say the gods also raced each other in swimming.

The grandest of Olympic champions, Michael Phelps, churned his way to immortality on Sunday, nailing an unprecedented eight consecutive gold after powering the United States to victory in the 400-meter medley relay at the Water Cube here.

OLYMPIC A4

Medals	G	S	B	Total
China	51	13	12	96
United States	19	22	24	63
Britain	11	8	7	26
Germany	8	6	7	21
Australia	6	10	11	29

More MDL in PTA in More Rally on Page A21

7 killed in MILF ambush

Bare plan on term extension, GMA urged

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

WILL SHE OR WON'T SHE?

Senators yesterday urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to declare publicly once and for all if she planned to remain in office beyond the mandatory resignation of her term in 2010 amid heightened debate on amending the Constitution to adopt the federal system.

Ms Arroyo has said she will step aside when her current term under the 1987 Constitution expires, but critics point out she has kept silent on what she will do if the Charter is amended and the federal parliamentary system is adopted.

"I think it's better for President Arroyo to say whether she wants to extend her term or not because the people do not want things being hidden from them. People will decide you more if you don't tell them straight your true intentions," Sen. Richard Gordon said.

Gordon told dzBB radio that he talked with former Presidents Fidel V. Ramos when he was

BARE A6

EL SHADDAI RITES President Macapagal-Arroyo joins hands with Bro. Mike Velarde, El Shaddai leader, and Bishop Velarde during the 24th anniversary of the Catholic charismatic group at Rizal Park in Manila. (Story on Page A7.)

Rebs attack Army convoy in Lanao

By Inquirer Mindanao and Alcuin Papa in Manila

MARAWI CITY—AMID A RAGING CONTROVERSY over a proposed peace deal seeking to end a separatist war in Mindanao, Moro rebels yesterday ambushed an Army convoy in Lanao del Sur, killing seven people and wounding 12 in what the military denounced as a "treacherous attack."

The Army team, composed of soldiers and paramilitary forces, were carrying salaries and allowances intended for distribution to militiamen when about 180 rebels of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) attacked them with 60-cal. machine guns, rocket-propelled grenades and other high-powered guns, officials said.

More rebels carried out the ambush in Midkalo town amid a controversy over a proposed agreement between the government and the MILF calling for the establishment of a Bangsamoro homeland with wide political and economic powers in Mindanao. The deal is under scrutiny by the Supreme Court.

The guerrilla attack also came four days after the government ended a massive three-day assault that dislodged about 500

7 KILLED A4

MILF silent on NGO peace bid

By Jeoffrey Maitem
Inquirer Mindanao

COTABATO CITY—THE MORO Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) was tight-lipped yesterday on President Macapagal-Arroyo's proposal to allow nongovernment organizations (NGOs) to lead efforts in bringing peace to Mindanao.

Mohagher Iqbal, MILF chief negotiator, also declined comment on the possibility of renegotiating the controversial memorandum of agreement (MOA) on ancestral domain reached in

MILF A7

'Bilo bilo-dinuguan' combo downs President

By Christine O. Avendaño

A MEAL DID WHAT PROTESTS could not do.

A "combination of bilo-bilo (plain noodle soup) and dinuguan (blood stew)" downed President Macapagal-Arroyo last week.

The fare caused Ms Arroyo to suf-

for an upset stomach. Presidential Management Staff Secretary Cerge Remonde said yesterday.

Remonde said that he, too, had an upset stomach after eating the same food combination when he and the President attended the wake for the mother of Transportation Secretary

BILO BILO A4

Kasilag, nat'l artist for music, dies; 89

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

THE KING IS DEAD.

National Artist for Music Lucrecia R. Kasilag, a former president of the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP), distinguished composer and music educator, passed away late Saturday night in her home on Pedrigal Street in Paco, Manila.

The King, as she was known to everyone, was 89, according to the CCP Encyclopedia and official records from her alma mater, Philippine Women's University (PWU), that listed her birth

KASILAG A13

KASILAG Music composer and educator

RP has moved backward, says Noynoy

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AFTER HIS FATHER, Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., was assassinated, Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III yesterday lamented that nothing much had improved in the country.

"I am saddened that instead of moving forward after 25 years, it seems that the country has moved backward," Noynoy Aquino said during a Mass to commemorate his father's death anniversary and to pray for the full recovery of his mother, former President Corazon "Cory" Aquino.

The senator said that unlike the example of his father, many "are offering themselves to the altar of money and power" instead of serving the people.

After 25 years, he said he "had hoped that choosing the difficult right over the convenient wrong would be easier, almost instinctive, or even unnecessary. However, it saddens me to

RP HAS A8

PRAISE FOR NINOY Former President Corazon Aquino, her daughter and grandsons attend a special Mass on the occasion of the 25th death anniversary of her husband, ex-Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mabuhay and equatorial winds blowing along with cold southwesterlies and thunderstorms which some cars (Thailand will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Partly cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly cloudy
Baguio	Partly cloudy	Davao	Partly cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly cloudy	Cebu	Partly cloudy
Tacloban	Partly cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly cloudy
Kalibo/Caticlan	Partly cloudy	Gen. Santos	Mostly cloudy
Puerto Princesa	Partly cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Mostly cloudy

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SUPERTRIS 6/55

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Lagman willing to compromise

Proponent of birth control bill to concede some points, keep others

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE LEADING CAMPAIGNER FOR A POPULATION control bill in the country yesterday said he was willing to sit down and compromise with Roman Catholic bishops on some provisions of the controversial measure.

But Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman said he would stand firm on the inclusion of artificial contraceptives in government health programs, claiming this would drastically reduce the incidence of abortion.

Lagman said points of agreement would be limited to some cuts in the proposed mandatory sex education for students from Grade 5 to fourth year high school. He said bishops could suggest the contents of the curriculum.

He said both Church leaders and "practicing" lawmakers "agree on the need for freedom and informed choice."

"There are certain areas where we can agree," he told the House, "I'm just waiting for the antagonistic atmosphere to subside before we sit down for a dialogue. It's hard to talk under circumstances which are not conciliatory."

Lagman said the atmosphere was created by some Church leaders who criticized his aggressive push for the reproductive health bill. He said the dialogue could be held in two weeks, about the time the bill may be calendared for plenary debate.

Until last week, there was no pro-signal from Speaker Prospero Nograles for the committee on rules to schedule the bill for floor deliberations.

Lagman said the bill had attracted two more coauthors, lawmen Rep. Rodolfo Albano III and Caloocan Rep. Mary Cajayon. He said 69 lawmakers now officially supported the measure.

Lagman needs 116 votes, or 50 percent plus one of the 230 total representatives, to get the bill passed.

But Lagman and his supporters said they were optimistic about gathering enough support for the bill.

Last week, Pasabuyan City Rep. Fernando Zarate, a "pro-life" advocate, said there were at least 40 congressmen openly opposed to the measure.

Zarate pointed to international literature showing the many side effects of contraceptives such as causing ulcer, infertility and hormonal imbalance.

Critics of the bill say passing Lagman's bill would pave the way for more cases of abortion, a supposed consequence of similar measures in other countries.

The Catholic Church in the Philippines is campaigning against the use of artificial contraceptives. The Church promotes only natural family planning methods.

The United Nations, on the other hand, is campaigning to improve reproductive health care as a basic human right.

According to the UN Population Fund, reproductive health problems remain the leading cause of ill health and death for women of childbearing age worldwide.

Impoverished women, especially those living in developing countries, suffer disproportionately from unintended pregnancies, maternal death and disability, usually transmitted infections including HIV, gender-based violence and other problems related to their reproductive system and sexual behavior.

The UNFPA noted that "young people often face barriers to trying to get the information they need."

At the 2005 World Summit, world leaders agreed to integrate access to reproductive health into national strategies to attain the Millennium Development Goals.

According to UN research agencies, 19 million women experience an unsafe abortion worldwide each year; 18.5 million of these occur in developing countries: Africa (4.2 million), Asia (10.5 million), Latin America & the Caribbean (2.6 million).

WONDER IF MICHAEL PHELPS STARTED OUT THIS WAY (CHRISTIAN ESGUERRA)

Above is an Olympic fever or just a stopgap way to cool off, but for some the heavily polluted waters of Manila Bay is the closest they'll ever get to a swimming pool. It's one way to train a future "superfish."

MESSAGES

12th Midyear Convention

Pulmonary Controversies: Evidence - Based Updates

Waterfront Cebu City Hotel, Cebu City - August 21 & 22, 2008

Day 1 - August 21

8:30 - 9:00 AM	Opening Ceremonies
9:00 - 10:00 AM	THE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE PPD testing should be done on close contacts of patients with active PTB Pro: Dr. Teresita S. De Guia Con: Dr. Rodolfo Romeo C. Figueroa Moderator: Dr. Cornelio C. Roa, Jr.
10:00 - 10:40	Difficult TB case Scenarios Speaker: Dr. Mother G. Ferrer Chairman: Dr. Ruben L. Gonzales
10:40 - 11:00	VISIT EXHIBITS
11:00 - 12:00	ICS/LABA or Anticholinergic should be the initial choice for COPD maintenance therapy Pro: Anticholinergic: Dr. Jerome C. Fernandez Pro: ICS/LABA: Dr. Hernan Gerardo L. Bernal Moderator: Dr. Jesus L. Orgel
12:00 - 1:30 PM	LUNCHEON SYMPOSIUM Hall I - "Asthma Management Today: Evolving concepts, changing strategies" (Pfizer) Hall J - "Latanoprost Point-saving progression: Best life what it keeping always open" (Amgen Mat Pharmaceuticals, Inc.) Hall K - "Recent Advances in the Management of ACOS" (Bayer)
1:30 - 2:15	GCCRI Sepsis 2008 Guidelines Dr. Rodolfo M. Guevarra Dr. Ian C. Reyes Dr. Jesus Clifford F. Arguelles Chairman: Dr. Maria Geraldine S. Lim
2:15 - 3:00	Non-invasive Ventilation Speaker: Dr. Roger T. Ty Chairman: Dr. Teresa M. Palileo, Jr.
3:00 - 3:30	Workshop on Mechanical Ventilators Hall K - "Ventilator Assistance" (Bio-Rx Trading)
7:00	FELLOWSHIP NIGHT Dinner & Dance

Day 2 - August 22

5:30 - 7:00 AM	LAKAD LUNG & BREAKFAST
8:00 - 10:00 AM	Steroids are Indicated in Septic Shock Pro: Dr. Ruth M. Hontanosas Con: Dr. Aileen P. Bendaña Moderator: Dr. Alberto L. Roñanes
10:00 - 10:40	The Difficult To Wean Patient A. When all you have is an MA! Speaker: Dr. Carmen Antonio D. Lee B. Newer Ventilator Modes to Wean Patients Faster Speaker: Dr. Rhonda R. Bajaro Chairman: Dr. Juan James M. Young, Jr.
10:40 - 11:00	VISIT EXHIBITS
11:00 - 12:00	Are buy risk CAP, antibiotic coverage for atypical organisms is needed Pro: Dr. Benedict R. Galvez Con: Dr. Ricardo C. Zamoranos Moderator: Dr. Marilouise C. Zamora
12:00 - 1:30 PM	LUNCHEON SYMPOSIUM Hall I - "Update in the Management of COPD and NECB Groups" (Pfizer) Hall J - "The Young, The Old and The Breathless..." (AstraZeneca)
1:30 - 2:15	Asbestos-related Malignancies: Clinical and Legal Implications Speaker: Atty. Daniel Walker Chairman: Dr. Dina R. Diaz
2:15 - 3:15	BUSINESS MEETING AND CLOSING

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Dr. Mary Geraldine S. Lim	Cebu Doctors' Hospital, 255-5555
Dr. Ruben L. Lozada	Visayas Community Medical Center, 253-5861
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There's only one Intel, Court of Appeals rules

By Lala B. Salcedo

THE COURT OF APPEALS (CA) PROHIBITED a telephone repair and alarm system shop from using the word "Intel" in its business name, saying the US-based microchip manufacturer Intel Corp. and its Philippine subsidiaries owned the name.

The appellate court thus upheld a Securities and Exchange Commission order that directed the Manila-based Intel Communication Trading Corp. to strike "Intel" from its name.

It junked the contention of Intel Communication that it had registered its trade name in the Philippines one year earlier than Intel Corp. registered its trademark, and that it was the US-based firm that illegally appropriated the name without its consent.

Intel Corp. and its subsidiaries, Intel Technology Philippines and Intel Philippines Manufacturing Inc., had petitioned the SEC to compel Intel Communication to change its name.

The SEC granted its plea but Intel Communication contested the decision before the appellate court.

In its July 28 decision penned by Justice Ramon Barcelona Jr., the appellate court said Intel Corp. had the rights to the name "Intel" because it was known internationally for its manufacture of microprocessors and other computer and electronic products.

It said that even before it registered its trademark in the Philippines, Intel Corp. was already well-known because it had "profusely extended all of the personal computers in the Philippines during the early nineties to the present."

The court also pointed out that the Philippines is a signatory to the Paris Convention, which states that countries should prohibit the use of a trademark that is considered an imitation or reproduction of another mark that is already well-known.

No resort

The court said that although Intel Communications registered its trade name a year before Intel Corp. registered its trademark, the latter's subsidiary had registered with the SEC much earlier.

"It therefore goes without saying that (Intel Corp.) has a prior right to the use of Intel as part of its corporate name due to the fact that it was registered ahead of the petitioner," it said.

The court found no merit in Intel Communication's argument that there was an similarity in its name and that of the US-based corporation.

It said Intel Communication's use of the term "Intel" would likely confuse people using "ordinary care and discrimination" into thinking that its products were made by the multinational microprocessor producing company.

According to the court, it was not unlikely that the two companies could even expand in to such other's business lines—telephones and computers—causing confusion.

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Look for Cecey

JOB

7 killed in MILF ambush

From page A1

rebels from 15 farming villages they had seized in North Cotabato, displacing tens of thousands of people. (See Action Ibn Mutlim, Page A1 A.)

Col. Ely Avila, commander of the Army's 103rd Brigade based here, said the militiamen and soldiers were part of the three-vehicle convoy of the 54th Infantry Battalion, which was on its way to the town of Lumbatan to deliver salaries and allowances of militiamen.

The firing lasted for about 12 minutes, Avila said.

He said the rebels then fled and "escaped" with civilians in the villages of Bendiperan, Mapaing and Magaling areas.

"We know that we are still on ceasefire, but we are going to take positive actions against this group," Avila said.

He said most of the casualties were policemen.

In Manila, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesperson, Lt. Col. Romeo Brawner, described the ambush as a "treacherous attack" and said it was "again another stumbling block toward the attainment of lasting peace in Mindanao."

"Such attacks cannot be allowed to go on. As the only legitimate armed forces, we shall pursue the perpetrators of this criminal act and ensure that the laws of the country are respected," Brawner said in a text message to the Inquirer.

The military convoy was led by Lt. Col. Harmon Flowers.

Eight of those wounded were Army personnel and the rest members of the Citizens' Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu), the military said.

The rebels fired on the convoy from high ground, according to Army Brig. Gen. Hermito Anondelo, chief of the Army's 102nd Infantry Brigade.

"It was a continuous firefight with our troops calling for help. Luckily, a company from the 33rd Infantry Battalion was nearby and rushed to the scene," Anondelo said.

Noncombat mission

"We will file the proper complaint before the CCCH [Coordinating Committee on Cessation of Hostilities] to get to the bottom of the incident," said Lt. Col. Romeo Brawner Jr., Army spokesperson.

The CCCH is a joint committee composed of representatives of the MILF and the military that monitors incidents of violence between the two parties.

"The troops will pursue the attackers for as long as possible," Brawner said, noting that the area was now having bad weather.

No link to M. Catabato

Brawner and Anondelo denied the ambush was related to the shooting operations in North Cotabato.

"The two provinces are adjacent but the incidents are not related," Brawner said.

Rebel spokesperson Eid Kabalu confirmed that the attackers were members of the 11,000-strong MILF but said he was shocking who triggered the attack, according to The Associated Press.

"They won't attack without any justifiable ground," Kabalu told the AP by telephone, adding that the group maintains many strongholds in the mountainous Liguasan del Sur province.

Despite the rebel pullout from North Cotabato, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Alexander Yano last week said that necessary to Mindanao remained "volatile and fluid."

Land dispute

In Sultan Kudarat province, suspected MILF rebels on Saturday raided a remote village in Kalamansig town, killing two villagers and burning the evacuation of about 600 families.

Mayor Rolando Garcia said the attackers, led by a certain Commander Boyet, landed on Friday night in the coastal village of Bangay and stayed there overnight.

At dawn, they roamed around the village and shouted open an armed militiamen who was manning with his name Buffalo, Garcia said.

The mayor said the farmer was shot at close range. Another farmer nearby was also shot dead.

Col. Julieto Anolin, 6th Infantry Division spokesperson, said land conflict was the root cause of panic and order problems in Sangay, a six-hour boat ride from Kalamansig town center, about 80 kilometers south of Cotabato City. With reports from *Rachel V. Uson, Jeoffrey E. Maitem and Edwin G. Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao*

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3 hurt in Iligan bomb blast

ILIGAN CITY—THREE PERSONS were seriously wounded when a bomb exploded at a motel here at around 5:30 p.m. yesterday. Another bomb blew up 15 minutes later at a city pension house.

Police said the bomb blew up inside the room of Joaquin Bedasol, 63, a former policeman of Kapatagan town in Lanao del Norte, as Traveler's Inn on Cabili Avenue.

Bedasol was wounded in the mouth and nape. Also wounded were Shireen Salvador, 17, and Nathaniel Gayla, 4.

At around 5:30 p.m., another bomb exploded at Baptist Residence House on Don Rodolfo Street. No one was reported hurt, but several windows were damaged.

Rachel V. Uson, Inquirer Mindanao

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Corrections

IN THE AUG. 14 ISSUE, a headline and article on Page A5—"2 in PIA-Seoul deal ordered suspended"—misstated that the Sandiganbayan had suspended the officials of the Public Estates Authority and four government auditors for their involvement in the PIA-Seoul case. The officials were suspended in connection with the completed Dasmariñas Aberapagal Boulevard.

* * *

THE JAMES MIRACLE erroneously included background material on the PIA-Amari case.

10 victims of Princess sinking identified through DNA

By Bonnee Nopalkaran
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—After nearly two months, relatives of 10 of the over 800 victims of the MV Princess of the Stars sinking on June 21 were finally able to claim their bodies yesterday.

The remains had been found still inside a life-vest inflated to flotation when the Army belonging to Sulpicio Lines captured at the height of Typhoon "Frank" and were subjected to DNA testing in Manila to determine their identities.

From Sarajevo

Councilor Dr. Antonio Cuello, chair of the Cebu City Disaster and Coordinating Council (CCDCC), said the results of the DNA tests, which matched samples swabbed from relatives with tissue taken from the remains, were released by the International Commission of Missing Persons (ICMP) in Sarajevo last week.

"I think there will be other bodies to be identified in the coming days, maybe in a week's time," Cuello said.

Names

The Philippine National Police Regional Disaster Operations Center based at Camp Sergio Osmeña Sr. have identified the 10 remains as that of Ephraim Tayongong Jr., 26, of Cantao-is Island, Cebu; Reynaldo Tibon, 38, Mandaue City; Deodoro Seong, 58, Medellin, Cebu; Henry Tan, 51, Carcar, Cebu; Jonathan Gerad Antimano, 38, Toledo City; Darlo G. Arn-os, 31, Dano Sanayan, Cebu; and Priscilla D. Tubio, 28, Dano Sanayan, Cebu.

Around 300 remains of victims of the tragedy had been brought to Cebu for identification.

Prior to yesterday's release of the 10 bodies, the National Bureau of Investigation-forensic team here, which is working with the CCDCC and International Police (Interpol), released 19 bodies to relatives.

The Princess of the Stars remains uprooted in the waters of Romblon, scratched because of fears its cargo of toxic pesticides could leach out or say nervous.

Salvage operations are set to start in September after several delays, and only after the pesticide is removed will operations to retrieve the hundreds of bodies still trapped in the hull begin.

8 Olympic golds, 8 swim records for Phelps

From page A1

It was filled as a team relay race, but it was only about one man.

"Everything was accomplished," Phelps said. "Going all four times, winning every race."

It was a feat that many believed couldn't be done, until he did it in emphatic style.

"The greatest thing is proving nothing is impossible," Phelps said. "So many people said it wouldn't be done, but all it takes is an imagination. That is something I have learned."

Along the way to surpassing Mark Spitz's 1972 record of seven gold at one Games, Phelps scaled the summit of Olympic achievement, crumbling and then surging past the record nine career gold medals of Soviet gym legend Larysa Latynina.

But the dream, Phelps said, wasn't just about individual glory, but about changing the face of swimming forever.

"From here, it is a continuation with my goal of raising the sport of swimming to high as I can in the U.S.," he said.

Galloping strokes

With the Americans trailing after two legs in Sunday's race, the notoriously slow-starting Phelps swept his team into the lead with a second-record split in the butterfly leg and then watched teammate Aaron Peirsol anchor to the United States to victory, crowning Phelps as the greatest Olympic athlete ever.

When Phelps dived into the water for the butterfly—the third of four legs—the Americans were behind Japan and Australia.

But Phelps, swimming the semi-distance and with galloping butterfly strokes that he used to win his seventh gold a day earlier, clawed to the front on his return lap, pinning off to Leisel with the Americans in front.

Australia's Farmer Sullivan tried to chase Leisel down and appeared to be gaining as they came to the wall. But Leisel touched in 1 minute, 29.34 seconds—Phelps' seventh world record in his personal Good Week of China.

The Aussies took silver in 1:30.04, while—after the cold world record, while Japan held on for the bronze.

Here, sis crying

"This is a dream come true," said Phelps, who received a special commendation from the International Olympic Committee at the awards ceremony of the Beijing Olympics' last swimming event.

"I've dreamed of a lot of things and written down a lot of goals. And this one was the biggest one I had ever written down. You can imagine anything, to work through having ups and having downs, to accomplish everything you have ever dreamed of...it feels good."

The tip of his tongue between his trembling lips and his eyes wide from all the drama of the past eight days, the 23-year-old Phelps tried to sing the four-lyric, glitz Bonnet but hardly could. He just stood there with tremendous relief, his brother Aaron Peirsol, and breaststroker Brendan Hansen, his buddy with only bronzes, crumbling and then surging past the record nine career gold medals of Soviet gym legend Larysa Latynina.

"I guess, what I've done was just nothing it," Phelps said at a news conference. "I just saw them for one minute, we just hugged and she started crying. And then my mom started crying. I'm glad I've been able to accomplish everything I've wanted."

Massive arm span

For the record, Phelps won the gold in the 400m individual medley, 200m freestyle, 200m butterfly, 200m individual medley and 100m butterfly and was part of the victorious US quartet in the 4x100m freestyle, 4x200m freestyle and 4x100m medley relay.

Underscoring his greatness, Phelps' victories came in world-record clockings, except in his race to last year on Saturday the 100m butterfly, where he dug out one of the most stunning comebacks in Olympic history to pip the big Serbian Milorad Cavic by the slim of his touch...one hundredth of a second. Phelps, however, broke the Olympic record in the event.

Phelps, who has a massive arm span of 203 centimeters, about 7 cm greater than his height, bagged six gold medals in the 2004 Athens Games.

Phelps finally showed signs of tiring from his gruelling schedule. "It's time to take a little vacation," he said.

From the moment he walked into the swimming pool at the head of the US team, all eyes were fixed on Phelps and his quest for history.

For years, no one believed that Spitz's seven gold had been 1972 could be overtaken. On Sunday, no one believed that Phelps would not make history by going one better.

Pre-race ritual

PHELPS competes in the men's 4x 100m medley relay swimming final at the Water Cube in Beijing. His team won in a new world record time.

AFP

Phelps' pre-race ritual is about as well honed as his physique and swimming technique.

The white dressing gown, making him look like a boxer heading for the ring, the face-covered concentration and insistent music on his headphones. Step on to headphones.

Then the robe comes off, revealing a gigantic, triangular torso tapering down to tight hips and legs that appear positively puny by comparison with his bull-like upper body.

He stretches first one leg, then the other, and flashes his enormous wingspan, which gives him extra pull when he plows through the water.

Ironically, he values down his starting block.

Prior to Sunday's final, he had raced 16 times.

Few if any athletes in the world would maximize that workload, and Sunday again required something special from the men from Baltimore, who had rolled and screamed at his first swimming lesson because he did not want to get his face wet.

More like a kid

When the race ended, Phelps pulled his swimmer blisters on the head and threw his arms to the air after Lezak finished, though the Americans still had to wait a couple of breathless minutes for the official result to be posted.

Finally, it flashed on the board.

World record.

Gold medal No. 8.

A beaming Phelps slapped hands with his teammates and then his opponents, and gave his Cuba card. The winning swimmers looked more as if they were in a football huddle about to break for a play.

Phelps looked more like a high school kid than a superhuman as he celebrated his record...a goody grin much on his face.

'Greatest of all time'

Phelps was still smiling when he entered for the medal ceremony, immediately placing a large bear on the podium as if he could not wait for that eighth gold by his childhood by to ring.

Up to his right, tears rolled in his swimmer's eyes and one of those buried his face in his hands as she cried his joy.

"The Beijing Olympics has witnessed the greatest Olympians of all time...Michael Phelps of the USA," the announcer said as Phelps posed on the desk with his teammates, for another gold around his neck.

Afterward, he climbed through hordes of photographers to hug his family and then made his way back to the changing room, not even glancing back at the pool where he had rewritten history.

Perhaps he was already thinking about the next race.

'He is staggering'

Sport is full of hyperbole. The terms "historic," "heroic" or "legendary" become almost banal, but no one on the crowd could deny on Sunday they had witnessed something remarkable.

"It's astounding. His individual records will be broken, but when can any of his eight gold medals will ever be beaten," said Australia's Jenny Terrell, a former swimmer whose own world record in the 1,500 meters stood for several years.

At a one-time athlete, Terrell knows how hard it is to win one event, let alone eight.

"I love the word freak, but he is not a world of his own. He is staggering," she said.

Phelps' achievement has helped his get from his teammates.

"Without (him) help, this isn't possible," he said. "I was able to be a part of three relays and we were able to put up a solid team effort and we came together as a team.

"For the three Olympics I've been a part of this is by far the closest meets team that we've ever had. I didn't know everybody coming into this Olympics, but I feel going on to become very tight person very well. The team that we had is the difference."

14 medals in all

At 23, Phelps has set a record for the total number of medals won by a male Olympian with 14.

Russian gymnast Nikolai Andrianov won 15 across gold, five silver and three bronze in 1972, 1976 and 1980—and held the mark.

Only Latynina's 18 career medals exceed Phelps' total.

"He may be human but he's from a different planet," Russia's double Olympic champion Inna Deriugina said of Phelps. "A different galaxy." *With reports from Reuters, AP, AFP and Inquirer Research*

Olympic champ screamed in first swimming lesson

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Phelps' coach Bob Bowman spotted the champion's potential when he was an 11-year-old, telling his parents he had a great future so long as he dedicated himself to hard work and training.

Phelps brought into the theory and enjoyed any promises of a normal life in his pursuit of glory.

Teleprogramming or going bowling with friends was ruled out in case he injured himself; late-night partying was a no-no, and gatherings were packed in case side to make room for practice.

But Phelps has no regrets and instead awoke in his cupcake that have not only turned him into a millionaire but have also saved the profile of a sport that ranks hardly in the pecadrillo minus tech teams behind the likes of baseball and basketball.

"I am lucky to have the talent I have, the drive I have and that I've evolved about the sport. I am fortunate for every quality that I have, and I'm HAPPY that I'm at it it," he said on Sunday after swimming history books.

Overcoming obstacles

Touted for his fierce focus and ferocious competitive spirit, Phelps is an obsessive who sets himself near impossible targets and then sweats to accomplish them.

Swimmer who knew Phelps when he was a child in his hometown of Baltimore, must be shaking their heads to disbelief.

At his first swimming lesson, he had a screaming fit, terrified of putting his face in the water. At school, he had to take medicine to treat some an attention deficit disorder, and at home he struggled to come to terms with his parents' divorce.

Swimming came to the rescue, giving a structure to his day and allowing him to thrive in at least one area of his life.

Father figure

Bowman became his coach when Phelps was 11, and has thwarted the swimmer's drive to the top, assuming the role of father figure along the way, finishing him how to drive and showing him how to have his way his first solved dozen.

"I've been able to accomplish my lifetime dreams and goals. I always wanted to be an Olympic gold medallist, a professional athlete, a world record holder and I've been able to do all of those," a grateful Phelps said.

The achievements were etched up.

At 15, he became the youngest person to hold a world record and also the youngest male in 68 years to be selected for the US Olympic swimming team—winning SIX in science in history.

At Athens, he was clubbed up 10 individual world records against 26 for Spitz and has 14 career Olympic golds, five more than anyone else.

Broken wrist

Extraordinary in the water, Phelps has an ordinary, boy next-door persona outside the pool.

He does nothing to hide his affection for his mother, Debbie, who followed him to all his races. He loves hip-hop music, video games and watches DIYs endlessly while relaxing between races.

Prior to the Beijing Games, Phelps rashly declared that he's record on his Olympic goal, allowing the media and sponsor Speedo's offer of a $1-million bonus to whip up excitement over the possibility.

It turns out that Phelps' goals were even grander—not only to win all eight of his Olympic events but to do all with personal best times.

He thought he had blown his chance last year when he broke his wrist, but with the determination that Bowman first discovered when Phelps was a boy, the swimmer doggedly worked through the injury to triumph.

Swimming sisters

Not everyone saw such potential in the youngster.

"My mom and I still joke about the fact I had a middle school teacher who said I would never be successful," said Phelps, who after his parents' divorce was brought up by his mother, Debbie, with his two sisters swimming sisters, Hilary and Whitney.

All three were in Beijing to cheer in Phelps' triumph.

A few romances

He has a gigantic appetite, eating tuberous quantities of food to fuel his exertions, and relishes the company of friends, only contradicts to offer the loneliness of the lanes.

He has been romantically attached to a few women but has never had a succession of glamorous girlfriends, like many sporting figures, and if he is seeing someone now he is keeping very quiet about it.

He takes his position as a role model extremely seriously and has dipped up only once, getting arrested for drinking under the influence of alcohol a few months after the Athens Games for which he apologized profusely.

At 23, he is probably near the peak of his physical powers and it is certainly a much more muscular, imposing figure than back in 2004.

Nobody has suggested he is considering retiring after Beijing, and it would be hard to imagine him leaving the pool.

Perhaps his biggest problem will be finding a serious rival to test his competitive drive and push him to new heights. *Reports from Reuters and AFP*

Bro. Mike tells GMA: Abandon Cha-cha

By Gracien L. Alave

EL SHADDAI LEADER MIKIAMO "MIKE" Velarde yesterday said he had suggested to President Macapagal-Arroyo that she abandon plans to amend the Constitution before her term ends in 2010, warning that to do so now would be divisive.

"My position is always to have a constitutional convention in 2010 so that the issues can be extensively discussed," Velarde said in an interview with the Inquirer.

"My advice now to postpone Cha-cha (Charter change)—it's very divisive—and to have Con-ven (constitutional convention) by electing delegates during the elections. Let it go until 2013," he added.

In spite an upset stomach and fever each, or last week, Ms. Arroyo joined 25,000 El Shaddai faithful at the Quirino Grandstand on Saturday night sharing rain-drenched celebrations marking the 29th anniversary of the religious movement and Velarde's 69th birthday.

Ms Arroyo had dinner and heard a 10-piece band with Velarde and his family before going to El Shaddai members, she stayed for about three hours. They also noted that it was the President's longest stay in the prayer-rally, as she usually only attended the Mass.

Velarde, spiritual adviser to the President, said he discussed with her moves to change the 1987 Constitution and proposed Pres. administration allies in the House of Representatives to amend her term, which ends in 2013.

If the overhauling of the 1987 Charter were left to lawmakers, Velarde said it would not be representative of the people's wishes. He said he also expressed suspicions that some lawmakers would push for their own interests by offering to propose to extend the term of incumbent elected officials.

"Cha-cha will not solve our problems," he stressed.

Should the proposal for a constitutional convention push through, Velarde said he "might consider" running for delegate. "I want a Charter that is really reflective of the people and suited for what we are today," he said.

Velarde, whose charismatic movement boasts of around 5 million members, said he expected moves in the House to amend the Charter would jeopardize the proposed bad many legal hurdles to overcome and that some senators opposed the move.

He also said Ms Arroyo that brokering with the Constitution to make way for the peace agreement between the government and the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) would be a bad move for the country in the long run.

"What would stop other groups (here calling for the same? It's a bad precedent," he said.

The President did not say anything about his advice, according to Velarde. However, she explained that the idea to change the 1987 Constitution did not come from her but from the April resolution filed in the Senate by Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

"She was exploring the possibility of federalism under the proposal of Senator Pimentel," Velarde said.

Malacañang has announced its support for Pimentel's federalism bill as it would allow the creation of the Bangsamoro Juridical Entity envisioned in the draft memorandum of agreement with the MILF.

Velarde also noted that Ms Arroyo had acknowledged that any plans to amend the Charter from the House would not succeed unless the Senate supported it.

As to proposals to extend the President's term beyond 2010, Velarde said he believed that it was not part of Ms Arroyo's plans.

Velarde said the President had asked for his support so that her projects would be completed before the end of her term. She did not ask for his support in her allies' campaign for Charter change and the reported extension of her term, he stressed.

MILF silent on NGO peace bid

From page A1

secret negotiations last month in Kuala Lumpur under the auspices of Malaysia.

"We will wait for the official communication from the Philippine government regarding that matter. I cannot just give you comments based on newspaper reports," Iqbal told the Inquirer.

In a separate phone interview, Ghazali Jaafar, MILF vice chair for political affairs, made the same statement. The MILF Central Committee will discuss the government option once it receives an official communication, Jaafar said.

"Even the non-governmental organizations mentioned is tied to the peace negotiators, [are] not familiar with them," Jaafar said.

Mr Arroyo said during a Malacañang banquet on Friday that she wanted NGOs to open a "second peace track" to end the more than two decades of fighting that has claimed more than 120,000 lives and displaced 2 million in Mindanao.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita later identified the NGOs as the Christian-Muslim Ibr Peace and the Philippine Council for Islam and Democracy.

Bishop-Ulama Conference

Yesterday, Press Secretary Jesus Dureza said that Mr Arroyo had asked the Bishop-Ulama Conference (BUF) to take a leadership role in the peace process that was reactivated after the Supreme Court stopped the signing in Malaysia on Aug. 5 of the MOA.

The BUF is composed of Muslim and Christian religious leaders who have been promoting peace and dialogue in Mindanao for the past 11 years.

"President Arroyo had requested the BUF to convene these efforts in the given value to a deep consultative process to hear the views of stakeholders in the private sector, the local government units and all those who will be affected one way or the other to refine and become a framework for peace and development not only for Mindanao but the whole country," Dureza said.

He said one of the BUF's three conveners, Archbishop Fernando Capalla, was now consulting its leaders and members about Mr Arroyo's latest peace initiative.

In a phone interview, Capalla said it was "not clear" when only the group, composed of 42 Catholic and Protestant bishops and pastors and 26 ulamas (Muslim religious leaders), would play in the peace process.

"They ask us to lead but again we have to discuss the meaning of that," he said.

Capalla said that only last week, the BUF organized a public meeting in Davao City with peace adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr. on the MOA. "We are here to facilitate," the archbishop explained, adding the group had "no position" on the MOA.

Awaiting court decision

Jaafar, Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday said the next stage of the peace process would have to await the outcome of the cases before the Supreme Court questioning the constitutionality of the MOA, specifically provisions that in effect call for the creation of a separate state.

"It will depend on exactly what the Supreme Court will say. Maybe it will tell us, 'Please correct that' line to be followed before the MOA will be renegotiated," Gonzalez said in a phone interview.

In Congress, Palawan Rep. Abraham Mitra said he would like Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. to join the negotiating panel.

Mitra, whose province stands to lose two towns to the planned Bangsamoro Juridical Entity, said Pimentel's involvement in the renegotiation would make the new agreement "constitutionally acceptable and popularly supported."

"The complex job of mediating a conflict with deep historical roots requires the services of a statesman," he said.

Sen. Richard Gordon said the proposal to create a broader Bangsamoro homeland was no different from establishing an enclave for Aeta people or limiting ethnic groups to their provinces.

"The BBLP will end up losing even if the MOA is signed. Every other province in Mindanao will join for insurance. We should only sign 3 years just if all the concerns of the affected parties are ready or say Muslim brothers are addressed," Gordon said in an interview with dzBB radio.

In a resolution passed on Thursday, the influential Association of Second and Flag Officers (AgSo) joined various groups in rejecting the MOA.

"We fully oppose the extraconstitutional means by which the government panel negotiated (the MOA)," the AgSo said.

"We are alarmed by the absence of a provision requiring the MILF armed component to disarm. Rather, the MOA authorizes the MILF to maintain an internal security force. Under our fundamental law, there shall only be one Armed Forces of the Philippines," the AgSo said.

The AgSo meeting was presided over by former Defense Secretary Renato de Villa. It was called by the Council of Elders, a special AgSo body composed of former Armed Forces chiefs of staff.

Also present at the meeting were retired Generals Jose Magno, Romeo Candelon, Efthimio Adan, Julio Echevarria and Rodrigo Gerang, and retired Lieut. Gens. Edilberto Pantas.

Auxiliary Bishop Bernardino Cortez yesterday added his voice in proposals to renegotiate the MOA, saying the government and the MILF "must come up with a new and feasible plan to pave the way for peace in Mindanao."

Also yesterday, 30 businessmen, peace, social and students of the Jesuit Diocese of Davao Immaculate and Marist Brothers' Educational Institutions in Mindanao appealed for the cessation of hostilities in South Cotabato.

"We urge the AFP and the MILF to lay down their arms, renounce any act of hostility and reopen avenues for dialogue and peacetalks," the group said in a statement. (With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, Jill C. Cabreros Jr., Leila B. Salaverria, Christian T. Esguerra, Bluegma C. Orth and Jr. Zamora in Manila)

RP has moved backward–Noynoy

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find that this has not been the case so far."

Cory Aquino also attended the Mass at Ateneo de Manila University. Though still battling voice issues, the former President was cheerful, greeting friends and well-wishers. She sat on the front row flanked by her grandchildren.

Asked what had changed after 23 years, she said, "Well, I am not totally recovered as I was."

The former President granted media requests for an interview. She said she was feeling much better than before, but she had not fully regained her strength.

"It is heartwrenching to know that the people still continue to remember Ninoy," she said.

She expressed the hope that her husband would be remembered as "somebody who really loved the Filipino people and proved it by giving up his life for our freedom and for our democracy."

Cory was more optimistic than her son, saying that issues posed to Benigno have come about following the sacrifice of her husband 25 years ago.

"My hope now, the politicians of nongovernmental organizations: There are many groups helping our people through microfinance," she said, citing the example of the Center for Agriculture and Rural Development Mutually Reinforcing Institutions (CARMMI), this year's recipient of the Ramon Magsaysay Award for public service.

"I hope that all of us Filipinos will think how we can help our fellow Filipinos," she added.

Around behind the bronze President were Rep. Teddy Locsin, Gina de Venecia and Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, who arrived shortly after the Mass had started.

Drilon, Hyatt 10

Former Sen. Franklin Drilon also stood at the Mass and was seated with three members of the so-called Hyatt 10, the former Cabinet members of President Macapagal-Arroyo who turned their backs on her and demanded that she step down in 2005.

The three ex-Cabinet members were Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, former Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman and former Education Secretary Florencio Abad.

Former Minister Secretary Jose Lina Jr. also granted the former President before the Mass began.

Cory's eldest daughter Maria Elena Cruz, who is celebrating her birthday today, also attended the Mass, but she sat away from her mother. Television actress Kris Aquino was not at the church.

Redemption

In his homily, Fr. Jojo Magadia said "redemption and resurrection" marked the death of Ninoy Aquino.

"The sacrifice of Ninoy Aquino redeemed us. Ninoy's death was our redemption," the priest said.

He also lamented the "lessons not applied" in government. The redress in the country, as well as in the Filipinos' tolerance for injustice.

But Magadia said that while it was easy to be discouraged, "we should look back at the life of Ninoy."

"The fight for justice must go on," he said. "We should draw strength from Ninoy."

Public holiday today to mark Ninoy death

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

IT'S A PUBLIC HOLIDAY TODAY to commemorate the death of Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. But just ex-detainees wouldn't sum up their history. Aquino was actually killed on Aug. 21, 1983.

Malacañang observed the observance of the death anniversary based on the holiday economics mandated by Republic Act No. 9492, a law which Aquino's son, Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, yesterday said needed to be revisited.

"I feel that the time needs to be extended. I still file a bill for that," Noynoy Aquino said after the Mass for his father's death anniversary and for his mother's full recovery at Ateneo de Manila University in Quezon City.

Though he refused to comment specifically on the proposal of government to suspending the observance of his father's death anniversary this year from Aug. 23 to Aug. 24 because it would be "self-serving," Aquino said "national holidays with political and historical value" should not be moved to other dates.

He cited the celebration of Independence Day on June 12, which he said was something "which unites us Filipinos."

"How can we take it when every year the date of celebration changes? I hope they should have spared that," Aquino said.

The law allows moving certain public holidays, except those religious in nature, to four days for weekends to encourage tourism and domestic spending.

Aquino bust installed today at Naia Terminal 3

By Tarra Quismundo

AFTER GOING TO HONG KONG in strange, a bust of freedom fighter Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. will finally take its place at the newly opened airport terminal bearing his name when the nation marks the 26th death anniversary this month.

A plaque bearing part of the unanimous opposition icon will be installed today at the departure hall of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 (Naia 3).

Including its pedestal, the Aquino bust is at least 15 feet. The Naia 3 terminal, airport development and affairs chief, said yesterday. The bust was first unveiled on the eve of Aquino's 69th birthday in November 2001.

"Because the terminal was not finished at the time, they took it out so as not to damage the bust. It was held in store in Ayala [where the terminal] is now and held up the opening," Serrano said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, members of the cabinet, diplomats and other government officials are expected to grace the event at 10 a.m. today, three days before the nation marks Aquino's death anniversary at the airport complex.

A work by Bicolano artist Rene Aceilla, the bust will be placed at Terminal 3, which has been operational for a month. Terminal 3, completed six years ago, had been kept shut by contract controversies and safety concerns.

'Bilo bilo-dinuguan' chosen GMA

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Leandro Mendoza on Thursday afternoon.

"It was nothing serious," said Mendoza, who, like Mr. Arroyo, had since recovered from the illness.

Since she took office in 2001, Mr. Arroyo has survived not only attempts to impeach her but also efforts to oust her through a coup or street protests.

On Friday, Palace officials announced that Mr. Arroyo was suffering an upper stomach but not "OK" after she skipped the arrival honors in Malacañang for visiting Emir HE Prime Minister Sheikh Nasser al-Mohammad al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

It was Vice President Noli de Castro who took Mr. Arroyo's place at the ceremonies held in the Palace grounds.

Reporters noticed that Mr. Arroyo's personal physician, Dr. Abier Gozon-Cervantes, was at the Palace grounds, prompting speculation that the President was ill.

Mr. Arroyo was seen later that evening at the signing ceremony for three agreements aimed at enhancing trade and bilateral relations between the Philippines and Indonesia.

Most nothing early last week from Cebu where she attended the Beijing Olympics, Mr. Arroyo has not shown on her known schedule.

Before her departure, Mr. Arroyo had declared illnesses that included her battling in the hospital for fever, colds and acute diarrhea.

Reynaldo said it was Mr. Arroyo's partaking of that menudo dish in this that not only for her but also for him and some congressmen who had gone to Malacañang's house on Thursday.

"The food was really good," Reynaldo said of the "bilo bilo-dinuguan" dish, noting that he only found out later that the dishes considered bilo-bilo and dinuguan colorfully combination."

But he said that unlike Mr. Arroyo, his upset stomach was not that bad. He attributed this to the noodles that he ate in addition to the bilo-bilo and dinuguan.

"That must have neutralized it," he said of the pork blood.

Reynaldo said Mr. Arroyo and he laughed about the incident when they got to talk about it on Saturday.

Feeling better, she went to Lahor, Pampanga, the other day upon the invitation of her son, Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo.

"The President even ate fried bolos," Reynaldo said.

Bare plan on term extension ...

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considering including Charter change (Cha-cha) to revise its provision on a single six-year term for the Chief Executive so he could seek reelection.

"I asked him to tell me straight if he wanted to seek extension because I will support you if he just says it," Gordon said, adding that the public appreciated "straight talkers" like Ramos.

Gordon stressed that in issues like amending the Constitution, it was important that Mr. Arroyo addressed issues pertaining to the people's interests. He said the people's concerns, like "manipulation" of existing Cha-cha provisions.

"I think the best time for Cha-cha is after 2010 so the people can be informed of the proposed changes before the elections," Gordon said.

She has to prove sincerity

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said that the public deserved more assurance from Mr. Arroyo.

"Right now, the President has to prove her sincerity because she has been seen as long-winded merely by doing the reverse of what she has said," Pimentel said. He noted that Mr. Arroyo took a U-turn in her December 2002 declaration that she would not seek reelection in 2004 and instead focus on serving up the economy.

Pimentel spent the weekend seeking to dispel to media interviewer and forums the public perception that Mr. Arroyo could piggyback on his federalism bill in the Senate and cancel in an extended term in the Constitution. He said he would allow her to remain in office after 2010.

He said his bill called for the extension of the presidential from of government, not a shift to the parliament type, and that the Senate and the House of Representatives would vote separately and are jointly on the measure in a constituent assembly.

Senate vote doubtful

"I doubt if the Senate would approve the extension of term limits, she'd be lucky to get four votes in the Senate," Pimentel said.

Gordon, chair of the Senate committee on constitutional amendments, said he had yet to set a date for the start of the hearings on Pimentel's proposed Senate Resolution No. 10 that was filed in April.

"We need constitutional experts to help us define the type of federal form of government suitable for our country," said Gordon, who added that he did not feel ready to enter the federalism hearing soon.

If Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile and Pimentel's bill, but Senator Rodolfo Biazon and Panfilo Lacson have announced that they were withdrawing their signatures after Malacañang said it was endorsing the measure.

SC: Law on revenue execs and targets OK

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE SUPREME COURT HAS AFFIRMED the constitutionality of Republic Act No. 9335 or the Attrition Law which allows the government to fire revenue officials who fail to meet collection targets.

The high court said the power of the executive branch to remove officials and employees from the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and Bureau of Customs (BOC) who do not meet goals did not contradict civil service laws and was unlikely to be wielded arbitrarily by political leaders.

But the court struck down a provision in the law creating the Joint Oversight Congressional Committee that would approve the latter's implementing rules and regulations (IRR), saying this was contrary to the doctrine of separation of powers.

Any questions on the constitutionality or limits of the IRR should be left to the judiciary, it said.

The law was questioned before the high tribunal by the Alternative Law Group Inc. and its members, Jeanson Alcantara, Ed Vincent Alforte, Ramon Pebbles, Rene Gonzaga and Edwin Sandoval, who contended that the statute made "inconsistent and hasty human" of BIR and customs officials.

The group said the law might also be unfairly used to enhance the President to sort unscrupulous goals that would allow her to initiate certain political exercises.

But in its Aug. 14 decision, the high court said the party-list organization's fears had no basis in fact and were "purely speculative."

The court pointed out the President could not arbitrarily set revenue targets. Revenue targets are approved by the Development Budget and Coordinating Committee and submitted to Congress along with the proposed budget.

RA 9335 also does not violate EBR on revenue officials' security of tenure, the high tribunal said.

It noted that the law provides a "reasonable standard" for dismissing an employee, which is: "When the revenue collection falls short of the target by 7.5 percent, "with due consideration of all relevant factors affecting the level of collection."

In declaring unconstitutional Section 12 of RA 9335 that creates the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee, the high court said Congress is prohibited from giving itself executive or judicial powers. After a law is passed, it should limit itself to oversight and investigation, it said.

COA: PCSO owes CHEd P100M from Lotto sales

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER Education (CHED) is short P100.3 million from Lotto sales, according to the Commission on Audit.

In its 2007 audit report on the CHED, the COA found the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office last year failed to remit 7.1 percent of the net proceeds from its gross Lotto sales of the Higher Education Development Fund (HEDF) as required by law.

The PCSO, the COA said, should have remitted to the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr) the HEDF's total share of P1,412,294,000.61 of the P19 billion it gives educational institutions.

Nonetheless on Education Secretary Jesli Lapus' request, the PCSO's budget and accounting department cleared that for all of 2007, the sweepstakes agency which runs the Lotto established only P48 million to the HEDF as they release.

HEDF records, however, showed it received only P10 million from the PCSO.

"We recommended and CHED management agreed to make representation with PCSO officials for the remittance to the BTr of all the amounts legislated share due the HEDF account," the COA said.

It also recommended the collection of official reports and gross sales figures from Lotto operations, including of previous years, in order to validate past remittances by the PCSO to the HEDF and monitor succeeding ones.

The education fund — available to both public and private colleges and universities — was established as a fund to enter the standard of higher education in the country.

Aside from a mandated P100 million in seed capital, the fund is financed with one percent of gross Lotto sales, 40 percent of gross travel tax collections and 30 percent of professional registration fees collections.

HEDF records showed aside from the P10 million from the PCSO, the fund received P544,137,279.1 from the Philippine Tourism Authority and P1,870,217 from the Professional Regulation Commission, for a total of P564,049,886, last year.

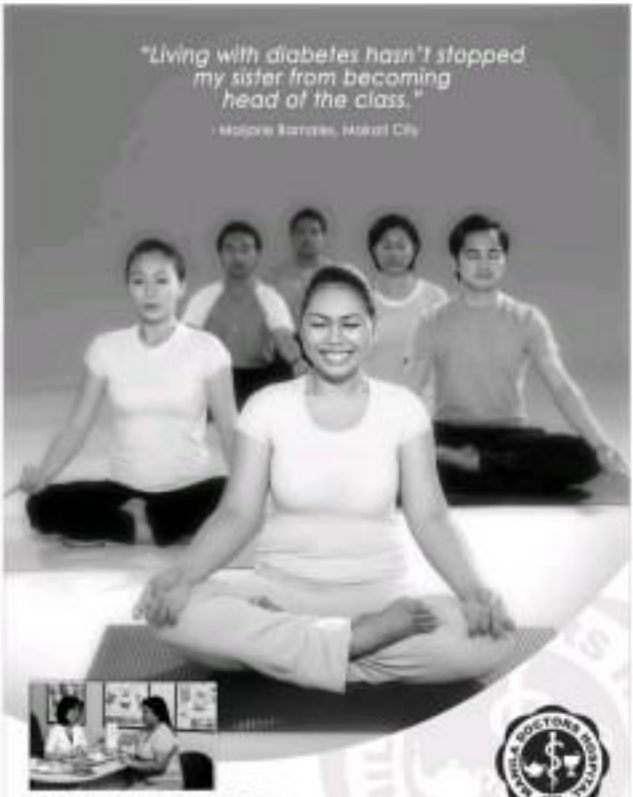
Port of Manila exceeds target

BUREAU OF CUSTOMS COLLECTOR HORACIO T. Suzara Jr. announced over the weekend the Port of Manila exceeded its July collection target by P881 million.

Total collections at the Manila port reached P6.3 billion, 13.7 percent higher than its target of P5.5 billion, Suzara said.

He attributed the high collection to the close monitoring by the Bureau of Customs of bonded warehouses, believed to be smuggling of smuggled goods.

Twenty-four customs-bonded warehouses had been ordered closed in the first half of the year for various violations.



THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, August 18, 2008
20th Week in Ordinary Time
Saint Florence de Chantal

1st Reading: Ezk 24:15-23
Gospel: Mt 19:16-22

A young man approached him and asked, "Master, what good work must I do to receive eternal life?" Jesus answered, "Why do you ask me about what is good? Only one is Good. If you want to enter eternal life, keep the commandments." The young man said, "Which commandments?" Jesus replied, "You shall not kill, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not bear false witness, honor your father and mother, and love your neighbor as yourself."

The young man told him, "These I have kept all. Is there anything else I still lacking?" Jesus answered, "If you wish to be perfect, go and sell all that you possess and give the money to the poor and you will become the owner of a treasure in heaven. Then come back and follow me."

On hearing this answer, the young man went away sad for he was a man of great wealth.

Commentary:

The key to this encounter with Jesus is that the new possessions that God brought such happiness into the rich young man's life were now the source of his great sadness. Fifty-Six Days Step Apart from the adventures of a Lifetime. That April day from the Lord. Jesus found the love that was tied around the rich young man's heart, and he wants us to be aware of anything that binds us to worldly things.

Our freedom to live serious our front with us, question of treasure or goods, but how strong or weak is to have or through our relationship with them.

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OPINION

The new gold standard

EDITORIAL

WHEN THE AMERICAN SWIM TEAM WON THE 4 x 100-meter medley yesterday morning, the Olympic swimmers set yet another world record. The most unusual among them, however, made history. Michael Phelps won his eighth gold medal in the Beijing Olympics, surpassing Mark Spitz's 36-year-old record of seven set in Munich. That brought Phelps' total gold medal haul, from three Olympiads, to 14 (five more than the total of the next winningest Olympians in history).

The victory also brought Phelps' tally of world records set in Beijing to seven—an astounding feat.

News of his eighth gold medal flashed swiftly around the world; it is no exaggeration to say that his extraordinarily dominant performances in the swimming meets were the principal sports narrative of the Beijing Olympics.

This is as it should be: attention in an athletic competition should be focused on the best athletes and the most superlative athletic performances. The Summer Games in Beijing (and other cities in China, which hosted other events such as football and the equestrian sports) have produced new sports heroes, including Guan "Lightning" Hetlu of Jamaica, who eclipsed the competition in the showcase 100-meter dash with a world-record 9.69 seconds. At these times, everything else (the host city's less than perfect weather, the inexplicably empty audience halls, the altogether unnecessary hilarity in the opening ceremonies) recedes to the background.

We recognize, of course, that athletes do not compete in an ideal world—and that the Olympics cannot be divorced from politics. The choice of Olympic host is itself already, inescapably, political; national pride is at stake. The format of competition in the Olympics—a race among nations, not commercial teams or athletic clubs—is also inescapably political. (The current debate over which medal tally is best, the traditional one which ranks the countries according to gold medals won, or the aggregate alternative, which halves ranges on its popular front page, has a political dimension to it. The first favors China; the second privileges the United States.)

And while the international community has learned to accept the futility and ambiguity of Olympic boycotts, many countries still use the host city's opening and closing ceremonies as fair game for symbolic political actions. (This newspaper, for instance, saw the value of countries deliberately entering the opening rites in Beijing as a protest against the Chinese government's continuing support of the military junta in Burma or Sudan.)

But sporting excellence is the reason the modern Olympic movement has come to occupy a hallowed place in the international community. Sports at the highest level transcends national or political boundaries; it allows all men and women a glimpse at what the human body is capable of. In a word, the Olympics celebrates the human spirit.

What Phelps has done has been truly extraordinary. A British athlete joking(?) told the US head coach his take on the Phelps phenomenon. "I think I've figured out Michael Phelps," the coach recalled being told. "He is not from another planet; he is from the future."

The joke is based on the reasonable assumption that athletic performance improves as confidence in life improves. With a wink and a nudge, the punchline tells us that a Phelps-level performance may be merely normal a hundred years from now. A joke, but also an estimate. Phelps, the greatest Olympian of all time, is showing us a glimpse of what the human body is capable of three or four generations from now.

To be sure, he did not do it alone. His victories in at least two events were the result of superb work by his teammates, particularly Aaron Peirsol. Indeed, the 16 swimmers-strong US team helped make Phelps' eight-gold-medal feat possible in the first place; its certain team haul, for instance, other swimmers swam in his stead, allowing him to conserve his energy and focus for the finals. (Of course, that means he was ineligible for most awards; he would qualify for the finals.)

Of all the numbers now being thrown in Phelps' historic wake, however, it is the first one that is still the most resonant. It gives hope to other Olympic hopefuls, and shows the depth of the discipline that harnessed, gave shape to, Phelps' remarkable talent. In his first Olympics, in Sydney, the American's medal haul stood at zero.

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Why GMA cannot quit

WHEN SENIOR MINORITY LEADER AQUILINO Q. Pimentel Jr. filed his resolution for a constituent assembly to change the Charter to shift to a federalist system, there was widespread support for it. But when President Macapagal-Arroyo endorsed it, the whole tactics is suddenly against it. Isn't that a clear indication of how much the people distrust GMA? Everything she proposes, the people look at with suspicion. Anybody she endorses for election gets defeated. Her endorsement is a kiss of death. Everything she touches turns bad. She married Mike Arroyo and now everybody hates poor Mike. Is it like a curse?

If you were President and you realize the people distrust you that much, what would you do? If you had any self-respect left, you would quit. So why doesn't she? Because she is in a quandary. She is trapped between a rock and a hard place.

If she is no longer President and she is no longer immune from lawsuits, she knows she would be inundated with lawsuits because of the many sins she has committed against the people. So if you were in her place, what would you do to escape prosecution? You would hang on to power for as long as possible through any means available. That is the instinct for self-preservation.

That is why she is desperately trying all desperate means to extend her term. Hence the Charter-change. Would she be able to do it? You never know, especially with the kind of politicians we have in Congress. She shouldn't be able to get away with this new foolishness, but she just might.

But if she succeeds, more than only one way, a way where history will look kindly on her. She doesn't have to resign. She can go on a leave of absence six months before the elections. She would still be the President but Vice President Noli de Castro would be the acting boss. There is no loss of face. On the contrary, the people would see it as an act of statesmanship and self-sacrifice. The hatred in the hearts of the people would suddenly turn to admiration. And so nobody would want to file charges against her, not even Oliver Lozano.

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

If she wants, she can go with her family to some other country with no extradition treaty with the Philippines, like Portugal for instance, just to name. Then she can live the rest of her life in peace, with her memories and get back at all her tormentors.

Think about it.

* * *

The three retired Supreme Court justices who are still investigating the Court of Appeals scandal and I hesitate to comment on it on it (they have completed their inquiry.

However, the latest ignition has revealed, first early, a very mediadriving image of Ca justices that they have feet of clay and are not the saints that we thought their were, especially the two justices in the center of the storm, Jose Sabio Jr. and Vicente Roxas. It was Sabio who exposed the attempted bribery on him and it was Roxas, the ponente of the decision that favored Mendoza, whom he accused of being unduly interested in the case although it had been assigned to his (Sabio's) division.

It turned out, however, that Sabio himself was chairing the case all throughout, despite the fact that he is a mere subdivision within the regular chairmanship of the division was on leave. If his allegations were true, an ethical person would get out of the case the first opportunity he gets. An ethical person will avoid a controversial case where somebody refuses to act play.

Curiously, despite admitting that his elder brother Chairman Camilo Sabio of the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG), improperly tabled him on May 10 to convince him to deny Mendoza's application for a temporary restraining order, he still presided with Justice Bienvenido Reyes to preside over the oral arguments scheduled on June 25. This, despite the June 30 ruling of Justice Edgardo Cruz, chairman of the rules committee—who was tasked by President Joseph Estrada to resolve the issue—that Sabio Reyes should take over, being the senior in the chairman of the division. Sabio was only a substitute for Reyes while the latter was on leave and Reyes had already returned to work as early as June 16.

Why was Sabio chasing the Mendozas once? It's worth picking a fight with a colleague on the judiciary? It would be more normal for a justice to want to unload some of his cases, especially the controversial ones, than to chase after a case. All that time, Sabio kept secret the improper phone call from his brother while he continued to cling on to the case.

With the admission of Sabio that his brother called him up not to issue a 72-hour Justice Sabio issued the TRO, nevertheless, some important questions need to be asked. Why did Sabio not expose earlier the interference of his brother? He is a professor of judicial ethics; he knows that what his brother did was unethical. He knows that for a justice like him to talk about a case with anybody is improper. Yet he talked about the case he was handling with his brother and later with businessman Francis de Borja, not only once but twice. An ethical person would have inhibited himself from the case. Yet, Sabio doggedly chased after it. Why?

The same applies to Justice Vicente Roxas. He also doggedly chased the Mendoza case, even keeping the radio for himself in violation of internal rules, and issuing the controversial permanent injunction to preempt an expected ruling of the Court en banc. He was also found to the investigating committee to have faked a transcript of a closed-door hearing where no stenographer was present. All of these things are unethical. So why did they do them? What about the Mendoza case was so important to them?

Stop the madness

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT THE MOVE TO change the Charter has been greeted with universal derision. Agustin Pimentel is beside himself with rage that his resolution, John Nelson, should be used by Malacañang to keep its converse manner there indefinitely. The usually senators who earlier backed his proposal now say they are temporarily backing out here. A small mark-time as it is feasible to push it, namely, before the 2007 polls. "I never said I have any signatures and will affix it only when the slippery and winding road is already paved safely," Andolfo Biazon puts it felicitously.

CBCP head Archbishop Angel Lagdameo pays a visit there belatedly (though his message is timely enough). The CBCP position is calling for an elected constitutional convention if there is to be Charter change. It is hoped that this should be done after 2010 and that task should be left to the next administration.

The bad news is that all is not lost. The Makati Business Club is positive discussed the MOA the government tried to sign with the MILF which is being used to dredge up Charter change, in three to tie. "It is a Republican-designed to be framed on our remaining people to perpetuate the incumbent's power and her dynasty's."

Now that I say! I'm glad everybody's using the term "Republican" to depict the MOA. I can live with the "up in arms" was a little more literal

That 'piece of paper' or Relax 'lang'!

PREAMBULAR LET ME SAY a WORD ABOUT the full page ad for the MOA which appeared at least earlier in the Bulletin and the Star. I am embarrassed that some think it was mine. But the only thing that was mine in that ad was the quotation of what I had said to an inquirer reporter. However, I am not complaining because, as Cito Beltran reminds me, I am in the company with, even the first Lot quote Scripture!

Now, about that "piece of paper."

Some proposals in it are being rendered by many as unconstitutional. But what I know about Constitutional Law is that the issue of unconstitutionality can't come up—only after something has been done which can be void or has resulted in deprivation of a constitutional right. Has this happened? Or, as lawyers would put it, is there an "actual case"?

The MOA is not a done deal. Whether the framers knew it or not, the MOA was nothing more than an elaborate collection of the "unfair" of those who want to revise the Organic Act of Muslim Mindanao and even the Constitution. In other words, it is an ambitious list of proposals for the amendment of the Organic Act and even of the Constitution.

But amendment proposals cannot be illegal and cannot even be unconstitutional. If they were so, no law or constitutional provision would be amended. Pat might as well delete Article XVII of the Constitution on Amendments and Revision! Include XVII is there because the Constitution is not written in stone.

What I have learned from jurisprudence is that the only amendment that is not allowed is one which violates the principle of *jus cogens*. *Jus cogens*, or peremptory norm of International law, means "a norm accepted and recognized by the international community of States as a whole as a norm from which no derogation is permitted."

Any proposal which is not contrary to *jus cogens*, no matter how stupid or even potentially harmful, cannot be dismissed by the Court—because the Court does not have the power to do so. The matter is what is called a "political question"; that is, a question which, under the Constitution, can be resolved only by Congress or the Executive or the sovereign people.

What then can the Supreme Court do about the parties to proclaim the government from signing the MOA? Do we not have the separation of powers? I can only repeat what the Supreme Court said recently about a similar problem:

"The doctrine of separation of powers calls for the departments being left alone to discharge their duties and as they see fit. The judiciary as [sister] coequal department cannot, in the guise of [its] [power] to review executive or legislative action . . . The legislative and executive branches are not bound to seek its advice as to what to do or not to do. Judicial inquiry has to be postponed to the immediate. It is a prerequisite that something had been done, a wrong committed or [an] injury inflicted before a court may come into the picture. At such a time, it may pass on the validity of what was done but only when . . . properly challenged in an appropriate legal proceeding."

What the Court said about the 1970 Constitutional Convention can be applied similarly mutatis mutandis to the sponsors of the MOA. "More specifically as long as any proposed amendment is still stirred on by it, there is no room for the interposition of judicial oversight."

But if the MOA is signed, should the Court declare it unconstitutional? Not necessarily. It may be incompatible with the present Constitution? In answer these questions are more ask what remedy, must the administration would make if the MOA is signed. It would commit nothing more than that the Aquino administration will exercise "best efforts" to achieve the changes. It may be a foolish commitment, but fully and unconditionally binding.

The President has not discussed the MOA. Can the President, under his oath to "preserve and defend" the Constitution, sponsor proposals that will result in amending the Constitution? The duty of the President under her oath is a total package which includes not just to "preserve and defend the Constitution" but also to "execute its laws, do justice to every man, and consecrate [herself] to the service of the nation." Strict execution of the laws, doing justice to every man without exception and consecrating herself to the service of the nation may require sponsoring a needed amendment of the Constitution. The principle: the sacrifice of a law or an offense, the Constitution is made for man and not man for the Constitution.

Whether or not the MOAM Organic Act should be amended to accommodate more territory than presently included or is and substitute or not the Memorandum of Understanding Ancestral Lands (MOA) should be a question that apparently are not allowed by the Constitution are not for the Court to decide. These are "political questions" which should be addressed by a constituent assembly, whether Congress or a Constitutional Convention, and ultimately by the people in their sovereign capacity.

The MOA is being linked by critics to the existence of term limits for the President. Although extension of term limits is not in the face of the MOA, it is not impossible that the desire to extend the term of the President may have lurked in the secret minds of the framers of the MOA. But again mere that will have to come out of the secret mind and go through a constituent assembly and a plebiscite.

I must admit that those who authored the MOA did not consult the stakeholders most affected by it. Perhaps it is enough justification that they are saying publicly pillorized for it now and that there [unreadable] negotiation does not make the preliminary outcome unconstitutional, especially if [unreadable] will necessarily have to follow, as in this case.

A few good men

ALL SOLDIERS SOON TAKE THOSE ARE PERSONS IN their sleeping days when overwhelming duty de means to go running—their driven tasks of [unreadable], the sheer game is incredible and those parts are in the order of the day.

But then, out of the blue, just as you are about to throw away your clubs and give up the game, your approach shot—anywhere from 150 to 300 yards—heads for the pin and the ball disappears into the cup. Immediately your

REVELLE

Ramon J. Farolan

pains are relieved. The confidence is restored and you begin to believe in your game. That one miracle shot is what golfers call a "magic moment."

The game is true with life these days. Just as you are about to give up on the system, a few good years along and give you reason to hope that we still have a fighting chance.

I can't recall any time in my history we had such talented doctors in the Intercountry Region in Muslim Mindanao (AMMR). The new Comelec chair, former Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, Jose A.R. Melo, took over a few months ago. He did what Benjamin Abalos was not able to accomplish in more than six years on the job. And remember, the Melo Commission had P1.2 billion worth of computer equipment which was never used by the Comelec. (By the way, whatever happened to the charges filed against Abalos and the Supreme Court's directive to recover the P1.2 billion that was illegally disbursed?)

There are reports of the much-heating—not heating, but heating—of Melo's computers... but I still give Melo an "A" for effort. Computerized elections remain a work in progress. We have to trust somewhere and Justice Melo has provided hope for the future.

* * *

Last Wednesday, my sister-in-law had a bad accident in San Fernando City on her way to transact business with the local Land Bank offices. During lunch time, she fell on her right hip, resulting in a fracture and causing her excruciating pain. A young man in the crowded restaurant came up to offer his assistance. Next, he asked for a doctor to help my sister in law, then he called the provincial hospital for an ambulance. In no time, the emergency team of doctors proceeded to the Mother Teresa of Calcutta Hospital where he stayed with their until a doctor was in attendance.

The complete stranger—the proverbial "Good Samaritan"—turns out to be a young Special Education teacher in California who was home for a visit with his parents and the celebration of his birthday. He is also a graduate of the Christian Order, Brother Joseph (T.I.) Sinhdan is on a special six year teaching contract under the auspices of a Phil-American Foundation. His mother, Mrs. Marina T. Sinhdan of San Simon, Pampanga, runs the St. Augustine Institute in the same town and has a Special Education section for students with special needs. On the night, T.I. is not accomplished swimmer and has performed at numerous social gatherings in his outside community.

We thank T.I for his unselfish spirit in helping others, his concern for the welfare of strangers and his solicitude to extending assistance beyond all expectations. We wish him a safe return to California.

* * *

Marine Cpl. Angelo Meris died in brave fighting between government forces and MILF rebels in Tipo Tipo, Basilan. There have been different reasons given for his death. What is certain is that despite all the talk about modernizing our Armed Forces, the political leadership has not really given them the support they deserve. Until we do so, up to now no one knows where the 600 modernization funds from the sale of Fort Bonifacio can be found. Plus it spent and if so, for what? Is it a trust fund so called for by law? No one seems to be able to give adequate answers.

* * *

Yesterday the Republic of Indonesia marked its 63rd anniversary as an independent nation. One of the great seven philosophers of the 20th century has been the difficult task of bringing and holding together such a diverse group of people who have contributed to the richness of culture and traditions of that great country.

If there is one thing that has always impressed me about our cousins to the south, it is their sense of nationalism and love of country. This is best reflected in the display of their national flag during Independence Day celebrations.

During our stay in Jakarta, whenever Aug. 17 came around, all the houses large or small and all government buildings were decorated with the red and white flag—the emblem of the nation as well as buildings of the same colors. Some people would say that this was done on orders from an authoritarian government. That may be true but some of the good practices that we have continued to observe in our country were originally imposed under disciplinary conditions enforced by parents, teachers or leaders of the community.

Three years ago in Jakarta, Holland, on Aug. 17 to be exact, the government of Indonesia (GOI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOA) with rebels belonging to the Free Aceh Movement (GAM). The signing was witnessed by the former President of Finland, Martti Ahtisaari, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Crisis Management Initiative, facilitator of the negotiation process.

Numbers in the MOA did I come across terms like "juridical entity." What was clear is that the unitary state and consequently of the Republic of Indonesia would be respected.

Some provisions of the MOA:

On governing of Aceh—Aceh will exercise authority with in all sectors of public affairs except in the fields of foreign affairs, external defense, national security, monetary and fiscal matters, justice and freedom of religion, the policies of which belong to the GOI in conformity with the Constitution.

On human rights—A Human Rights court will be established for Aceh, along with a Commission for Truth and Reconciliation.

On security arrangements—[AM unidentifies to demobilize all its military troops, and undertakes the decommissioning of arms and ammunition. The number of troops of the group to remain after demobilization will be carried out after [unreadable] of arms and ammunition. An Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM) established by the European Union and Asean will monitor implementation of the commitments by both parties.

There are just a few of the provisions of the MOU. As I mentioned earlier, there is no reference to a "juridical entity" or anything close to it. Part of our problem is we have too many lawyers who think they are being smart by coming up with legalistic terms that only confuse people.

Three years after the historic Finland signing, the peace process in Indonesia continues to hold.

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Fireflies in my old hometown

REVERSES OF MY OLD HOMETOWN ARMOS. still mixed joy and sadness in the blood. Among those reveries is the heart-stopping procession of fireflies at the dark summer night. Oh, yes, it's a beautiful and poetic memory of childhood as heartwarming to sell and to tell.

I recall that from our small town but shaded by a mountain range, the fireflies [unreadable] dancing stars. They swayed with the wind, nestled up and down and strolled among the mango and tamarind trees. Seconds later, the sleepy trees blazed like Christmas trees in the dark summer night, then my heart leaped with magic and delight!

My 70 year old kin watched the nightly spectacle, too, it sure of bonding for us. I recall his face, tanned and wrinkled by the sun field sun, his mouth heavy with odor of native cigar. There was a strange sadness in his sudden eyes as he gripped my hand. I never knew why.

This was many years ago. That memory has defied time. I was a tool—this boy then, pushing 7, a frail bundle of energy, innocence and little dreams. My world stretched out from our tiny hut to the rice fields, creeks, springs and the mango groves nearby. What a wonderland it was!

Probably, there are no more fireflies in my old hometown. Several years back, I was told insecticide machines had devoured the forests, rice fields and rivers with our advising seasons and thunderous blasts. Since then, the residents had lived in a world changing their little homes elsewhere. The crickets had disappeared, too, from among the thick bushes and trees. The trees had dried up like brown saloon under the sun.

In these places, what can hear now are freezing system and fans; what you see now are giant billboards and marquees ablaze with neon lights.

HIGH BLOOD

Ike C. Gutierrez

[illegible] also like to know the concerns of the citizenship and above—*what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, consume their all's well with their world and with themselves.* —Ed.

The fireflies looked like dancing stars. They swayed with the wind, nestled among the trees. Seconds later, the sleepy trees blazed like Christmas trees.

An old Capiznon monk once told me reverend seventy-five children. Twelve still springs and silvery lay daily wrestling with the vague loneliness of old age and the sadness of life. It's when the innocence of noble has crept in and you realize you're already hanging atop a cliff, what more is there to dream about? What more is there to embrace? Only memories are left.

At at my old age—you would probably ask—what's my favorite dreaming thing about fireflies?

Like any child, I had always believed in fairies, dwarves, white dwarves and other enchanted creatures that lolo told against cold dampness in the mountain storm during rainy nights.

Thumping e-cigar, lolo told me once: "Fireflies are messengers of those friendly creatures. Here your wishes to them—and then'll help make your wishes come true. But first, be good. Always be good."

All summer or dusk, I sat by the window, elbows [illegible] on chin, and like my wishes. I were pair of rubber shoes. My first long dreams pants. I fun, day movie in the town. He three wishes come true? I never came to thank lolo.

Not nearly 40 years, I had removed from my old hometown. Those long decades of adult life spent like a spending bullet train. Searching but not sometimes finding, taking but not oftentimes knowing. Embracing but not always possessing.

Some people can try to relish life but how little the silhouettes of an unfinished portrait. I would like to be remembered gratefully with hardly a word composed. I can't really figure it out.

At my old age—you would probably ask again—why those common reveries about fireflies?

For some special reasons. To look for fireflies is to rediscover and savor the happiness, innocence and dreams that consumed my childhood. To look for fireflies is to feel young again and perhaps imagine myself loved and embraced again. To look for fireflies is to fully grasp the meaning of "what lolo told me once: "But first, be good. Always be good."

Probably there are really no more fireflies in my old hometown. But I don't know why first thing tomorrow, I will want to hurry there.

Ike C. Gutierrez is a former press undersecretary and presidential speechwriter. He is now a full-time grandpa and farmer.

The soundbite that haunts us

IN A PHILIPPINES FREE PRESS EDITORIAL DATED Sept. 3, 1988, the late Teodoro M. Locsin Sr. looked back at a famous statement: "The late President Manuel L. Quezon," he wrote, "was supposed to have said that his 'government was like hell by Filipinos' to rise on the heaven by Americans." Having answered that era, Locsin pointed out, "The government run by Americans was hardly necessarily what with its corruption, thereby keeping the country a producer of cheap raw material for export and a market for highly priced imported goods, and the Filipino people in their place as 'hewers of wood and drawers of water.' The irony of it all was that with the right Dope and Filipinos not allowed, had a cultural brainwashing that left the Filipino with one dream: to be an imitation American."

And hearing lived through the five decades of independence, Locsin's observation of the Filipino character is quite astute. He affirmed the Filipinos not was born foolish or at least purposeful. Deliverance being the only saving grace, for allowing the Filipinos to look out their boundaries and experience what's out there and what's in their own backyard. Not no heroes Hungry insurgents replacing over-fed ones, in the words of the late Wenda martial Antonio B. Lacson." But then, Locsin pointed out, the basic problem encapsulated three all-imported martial law in the 1970s and the 1980s was the "spiritual hunger, unchained a quarter-century and the political chaos it will bring to satisfy no hunger.

But it's a topic of here described things have become that a simple articulation of faith in the Filipino character is not enough to solve problems. Many Filipinos famously had faith anything by whether "when to talk to God then to serve in Heaven", but he was talking of God's sole domain; more relevant to us is this other line, "He who reigns within himself and rules passions, desires and fears, is more than a king." That is independence.

Back in 2007, an entry in Butch Dalisay's blog made reference to the massive encyclopedia of Quezoniana just [unreadable] by the late Alfredo Saulo, "Manuel L. Quezon: The Forgotten Hero: Book One: Chronology, Readex Bibliography" commissioned by the the National Science Development Board in 1998, which is massively frustrated.

Here's the proper quote: "I would prefer a government run like hell by Filipinos to one run like heaven by Americans, because no matter how bad, a Filipino government might be the best in the end, a Filipino government might be the best in the end," Saulo cited Teodoro M. Kalaw's autobiography and dated the statement to 1922.

In Dalisay also cites another more contemporary, version: "When we were one undivided tribe of 7,100 islands, we were not subdued. Indeed, in that respect we shall not be original or incomparable. It is by our mistakes that we shall learn. America has asked us to learn much of the art of government, but we can master the art only by self-practice. In politics, as in love or medicine or basic or painting, concrete achievements is not in the absolutes spheres, but only in the sphere of what can be applied. And, anyway, even in the United States and in England, democracy is not perfect. It is the best that we propose to be ill governed by the Filipinos than well-governed by the Americans." Which came from an exclusive interview with Edward Neer Bell for the Chicago Daily News, 1922.

What gives me about some day criticism of this famous soundbite is that it wasn't ever a point of view uniquely Filipino. As early as 1886, Rizalista Graciá wrote down the following, "No people exists that would not think itself happier under its own laws and government than it might be under the good government of an alien power," he wrote.

And he went further, pointing out, "No one appreciates a condition of servitude or subjection in its own country, and no one is free." Rousseau said, "It is natural for a man to desire to be free, even if, actually, he does not merit freedom. But it is the desire itself that, in — time, will bring the men impossible aspiration to realization."

From the Haitian Historian, on his diary entry for June 4th, 1938, wrote that Quezon, in a moment of reflection... and wrestling, at the time, with the difference between the elective legislators from and the administrative realities executive functionaries, "The people can't govern for good government. They don't know what good government..." adding that "the fear is that the flood of blame may either conceal his powers, or abuse them by [unreadable] lives. To keep order is his main purpose."

But earlier, for effect, purpose? Still, regardless of the question, two years ago, in Tagaytay on Quezon: "The Government must be just," he said, and it "must protect the people from abuses and wrong doings and if it cannot redress the law or restrain the wrong doers, it must be changed in order to be able to offer such man... regardless of who he is. We must have but one tests of conduct in our dealings with the people. The best must be the tests for the protected and for the rest, for the richest for the poor."

Before Pandita Ramos, he was the first to give statement, being expelled from the Palo for having scrapped of this policy point, to the other problems affecting public confidence in government. On late Santiago [an elaborated how results were handled by the Philippine Presidency.

This was mature reflection after his having advised his friend and rival, Sergio Osmeña, in the 1920s (as recorded by Teodoro Kalaw), "The problem with you is that you take the game of politics too seriously. You are like a man playing poker who is afraid of you. The people do not understand that. They do not want it. All they want is to have the present problem solved, and solved with the least pain. That is all."

* * *

For Rodrigo Lim's article on government crooks in the 1930s, see http://philippinehotspot.wordpress.com/2008/03/15/how-quezon-handled-government-crooks-august-19-1935/

http://philippinehotspot.wordpress.com/2008/08/11/opinion-and-the-judiciary-1950/

Teodoro's mission impossible

MONIQUE (SECRETARY GLORIA) Teodoro and President Macapagal-Arroyo has an order to make emergency (without) by 2010. (Inquirer, 7/23/09)

A tall order and an oversimplification of the deep-seated concerns and issues that gave rise to the insurgency in the first place. General (Incentive, dismiss and struggles for social transformation—through armed or parliamentary struggle—will always found to be as long as injustice and social inequality remain pervasive in a nation richly endowed with vast natural resources and talented human resources.

Teodoro's mission would be accomplished if:

- Poverty and hunger would be eliminated by giving highest priority to programs providing basic and social services to the majority poor;
- Genuine agrarian reform would be implemented;
- GMA would sincerely address the problem of unemployment and the workers would receive just and decent salaries;
- GMA would be made accountable for the many corruption scandals under her administration;
- GMA would stop lying;
- The Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Laws would be respected;
- The HMT would be recognized;
- All children of school age would have access to quality public education;
- All public hospitals are clean, operate with the necessary medical facilities and dedicated health professionals and personnel who are receiving just wages and are accountable to the poor.
- There is no softness of narcissism (arrogance).
- The people's democratic rights are not trampled upon by a government that covers up crimes against the people.

These are among the few "do" that can be achieved. They may be considered as all that is necessary for a just and lasting peace, but certainly once these are addressed decisively, GMG order will be achieved even before 2010.

The real problem is not the incompetence if in the maleficence of the administration and policies of Mr Arroyo, whose good can't be moderated. Every day, thousands of Filipinos join the LETTERS ranks of hungry people, or homeless, raising lives and limbs so they can feed their kins; every day we hear stories of misery, sickness and death because of poor social services, and of funds (that could have been used to improve the lot of the Filipino majority) ending up in the pockets of corrupt leaders in the highest echelons of government.

Teodoro wanted us to listen to GMG. Now, its we need to listen to the Lions to understand the everyday issues? Shouldn't it be the other way around—the defense secretary listening to the people's lions? To be sure, one can't listen the real cause of the rumors if one is so consumed by his/her blind loyalty to a President whose electoral victory remains suspect to this day.

—HARRIS B MOLLAGA,
general secretary,
Bagsik Sang Timbulan-Pista Sa Sayan
(Kalinhasan), UP SOCPWPS,
Silay, Quezon City

Time to stop blaming all on Arroyo

SURVEYS SAY THAT PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo suffers from negative popularity ratings and is distrusted by 82 percent of the Filipino people. Reputable survey groups like Pulse Asia and the Social Weather Stations numbered these polls.

Maybe they were correct so far as the surveys are concerned. But these are the very same survey groups that also conducted the people which Mrs. Arroyo won by a heavy landslide over the late Senator Fernando Poe Jr. in 2004. Their exit polls, as well as those of many other reputable survey groups, also showed that the President won by more than 1 million votes. So the opposition and various forces left and right of the political spectrum continue to question the legitimacy of her administration.

The difference between a poll survey and an opinion survey is that the former requires specific answers to a very short questions (e.g., Who would you vote for presidential?) while the latter only draws out perceptions. The former measures the revelation of decisions made or to be made by survey respondents while the latter merely tell only their personal views. And there is a world of difference between a decision and an opinion.

In 2004, the country decided and President Arroyo won. The surveys showed that. The others would was clear. GMG victory would have been questionable if the surveys had shown that FPJ was FPJ and the opposition lost because they were distorted, and the President was as popular then as she late survey says, also, several factors came in—like the administration that has fund-bosses suffering from pressure cut.

Essentially surveys are scientifically correct. There may be no question about the negative perception against President Arroyo. But that is just a perception.

The negative views of national leaders are a worldwide phenomenon these days. There is a flood of national leaders some are supposedly, but we can't do anything about that. This country does not have enough oil for its domestic consumption and we have been importing rice since time immemorial. Any objective person would know that.

President Arroyo has implemented reforms that has improved the economy of the country like expropriation that has been praised and investments continue to come in. Political reforms are ongoing. All these things have served as a shield against the worldwide crisis in front and oil. Without the usual destabilization conducted by President Arroyo, this country would be reeling from economic recession and political turmoil.

It is easy for us Filipinos to always blame government and our President for anything. And it's time for us to stop this negative practice.

—LEONARDO SCIRI CALASIA,
lbcalasia@yahoo.com

Who consulted the MNLF?

THE MORO NATIONAL LIBERATION Front is glad that its brothers in the Moro Islamic Liberation Front were able to get substantive concessions from the government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP). The MNLF is also happy that the government recognized the Tripoli Agreement and other agreements entered into by the MNLF with the GRP.

However, the MNLF values this legal entity. How can the Tripoli Agreement and other agreements between the MNLF and the GRP be the basis of the GRP-MILF agreement when the MNLF was never consulted or made a party to the GRP-MILF agreement?

The brothers in the MILF should be credited and congratulated for winning recognition of the Bangsamoro state. The same aspiration is the very core of the MNLF struggle.

As it stands now, the Tripoli Agreement and other agreements have no binding legal consequences because, despite their recognition by the UNE they were abrogated by the government it self. The MNLF, with the concurrence of the United Nations and other well-meaning countries, can now meaningfully assert its right to self-determination.

—AHMISULLI C. SOWAIDULLA,
legal counsel/spokesman,
MNLF in Bindanan,
Gonzales Bldg., Pioneer Avenue,
9000 General Santos City

EDSA Bunga joins demonstrators protesting the President's State of the Nation Address last month. INQUIRER

Regaining the nation's integrity amid political killings

THIS IS IN REACTION TO THE ranking by the Dead of Appeals of the kidnapping conspiracy of Jovan Vosper Andres against the military.

I think even our courts have now degenerated into mere lackeys of political tools of the powers that be. They have failed in shield the people from injustices and have even participated with the military establishment in terrorizing the helpless ordinary citizens who are the very foundation of our supposedly civilized nation.

We should all put a stop to this senseless trend. We should make democracy work in our country.

While the infamous Rubrican Gonzales, a participant in the killing of thousands of his Bosnian countrymen, has been captured and will soon face the International Criminal Court in The Hague, no one is taking or even initiating action against the main instigator of most political killings in the Philippines.

If our very own state police and concerned government functionaries cannot even identify the perpetrators of the unsolved killings, most of which happened under the administration of a fake President, the civil society and all ordinary citizens should change the leadership of this country.

The residents of the barangays where the political killings transpired must petition the military hierarchy to disclose to the public or police units the names of the soldiers who were deployed in the area when the killings happened. If the company is military unit of first talk to do so, he must be charged with dereliction of duty for failing to protect the life of a Filipino citizen.

The military and police establishments must be held accountable for all the first-hand to political killings, manipulated disappearances and tupiwatan in the countryside. There should be an oversight body to conduct a thorough background investigation and validation of intelligence reports which are only justify military operations against civilians, and even children and helpless women tagged as communists or New People's Army sympathizers after they are killed and can no longer make any statements.

Be one should be above the law. Even the President, the chief of the Armed forces of the Philippines and those who have been perpetrated in unobvious reports of malfeasance and perpetration of the political killings must face justice to the end.

We can only regain our dignity and integrity as a democratic nation if we can secure convictions in cases where the perpetrators are powerful.

—RAFFY R. VALDEZ,
Lot 75, Block 14,
Commonwealth Avenue,
North Fairview, Quezon City

Illegally selling on sidewalks not a decent way to earn

I FIND DISCOMFORTING ANEL Felizer letter (Inquirer, 8/7/09) about the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority's treatment of sidewalk vendors. She says that the "vendors" are merely trying to earn a "decent" living. But the fact is, we have laws and ordinances that make it unlawful to use roads and sidewalks as an area for commerce.

Therefore, sidewalk vending is an illegal act and cannot be considered a "decent" way of making a living, unless we Filipinos seem have a distorted view of what a "decent"—that is, that laws are mere pieces of paper and we can do what we want for as long as we say the act is "decent." This view could be the reason we Filipinos are not moving ahead.

I, too, feel sympathy for the poor, but I think earning a living through illegal means should not and cannot be condoned. Probably Felizer does not realize that sidewalk vendors insist on selling their wares on streets and sidewalks, not because they want to avoid taxes but because they want to be the first to be seen by a prospective customer slightest from a jeepney or bus, who may somewhat pay a passable price for the thing—no matter if they disrupt the flow of traffic or inconvenience those who simply want to get home as soon as possible to be with their families.

Street vendors had been provided by local governments with "legal" spaces in talipapas, sidewalks and roads. But when customers didn't patronize them there, they quickly "reoccupied" the streets and sidewalks for a "decent" living. When Christ said give to Caesar what is Caesar's, he was telling us to obey the laws, even if doing so hurts our lifestyle.

There are laws of government and there are laws of God that, if one is to pursue (also), need to follow. That is the "decent" way of living.

—EFREM MANALO,
emanalo@hotmail.com

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The enemy of progress

THROUGH YOUR PAGES I SEE NOWADAYS I wish to share with the public my personal thoughts on the unfolding events in Concepcion, Tarlac, following the full commercial operation of the newly completed Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX).

I can't bring myself to see the logic of stopping—for no compelling reason—the operation of the Clark-to-Tarlac segment of the SCTEX, which is a flagship project of the Arroyo administration.

Shouldn't those planned housing developments be glad that an extremely good road, designed to spur economic growth, has finally come to their place? Their complaint that access to their farmlands has become difficult because of the railway can definitely be resolved in a friendly and more democratic manner. Last time I checked, SCTEX builder Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) had already completed some access roads as promised to the farmers. In essence, we wish to be aware that the BCDA has left those affected farmers high and dry.

It would be naive to think that those protesters did it on their own—without the help or influence of somebody who holds sway over them. We can call that somebody, whoever he or she is, an enemy of development and progress.

We are all stakeholders in this road project. It will be tragic if the SCTEX cannot serve its purpose simply because some of us look at it differently. It is unfortunate that they view it from a very personal and self-serving standpoint, and it is high time the larger picture of a robust economy that the Arroyo administration envisioned in putting together this multibillion peso highway.

I believe that the affected villagers have every reason to celebrate instead of carping about the SCTEX. Firstly, travel time from Tarlac to Clark, Subic and other provinces in Central Luzon, or even up to Metro Manila has been substantially shortened. Moving around with speed and comfort is a great way to get things done.

Secondly, the SCTEX will definitely generate a wide range of business and economic opportunities in its host communities. Who would say "no" to that?

Thirdly, prices of real estate property in these areas will surely shoot up. I call it "outright bonanza."

—TENG "GIL" (secretary general),
Bagkusan ay Kalayaan,
Magsasaka at Siyentsa Laban

Kasilag, national artist for music, dies; 89

First page A1

dies on Aug. 31, 1918.

Kasilag won the anthem of more than 200 compositions that include folk songs, opera and orchestral works. She was the honorary head of the Asian Composers League and received numerous music awards over the years.

Her last work was the Filipino opera "Why Flowers Bloom in May" staged at the CCP in March with Fides Cuyugan Asensio in librettist. This opera was the national artist's last duet with the CCP.

"I gave Tita King her first and last music director's baton," Asensio said.

Kasilag was also one of the pioneers of the world-famous Bayanihan Dance Company which benefited from her music research of Filipino ethnic dances.

Named national artist for music in 1989, she served as CCP president during the Marcos years, which many lovers describe as the "golden age of the CCP" because of its world-class presentations.

Blending east, west

As composer, teacher and performer, Kasilag traveled herself wholly to sharpening the Filipino academic appreciation of music. Her pioneering efforts to discover the Filipino roots through ethnic music and fusing it with Western influences has led many Filipino composers to experiment with such an approach.

She dazed an incorporate bell/gamelan Philippine environment in orchestral productions, such as "Divertimentoon for Piano and Orchestra," the prize-winning "Toccata for Strumentos and Winds," "Divertimentoon and Concertante," and the scores of "Filiuliana," "Dilang Filipino" and "Tir Pesthenia."

Her orchestral music included "Love Songs," "Legend of the Sunflower," "Ang Ibonsan," "Philippine Scenes" and Pantomime Music like "Sarok ng mga Anak Pudmo," "Banaane on a ri. Non-Theme," and "Kasi Mayo Ang Hirakis."

Kasilag was the subject of the book, "LBC: the Artist for the World" by Verlaxious de la Torre. Before her death, she also wrote her autobiography "Lamento Nuno Kasilag: My Story" chronicling her early years in Intramuros and her swift ascend in the world of music.

Pillar of music

PSO had condemned upon Kasilag a doctor of laws, Ateneo's cause, for her maximum ours in music education.

Former PSO Chief Celeste Beltran described Kasilag as "enormously devoted" to the pursuit of excellence specifically in music, in her cultural leadership and interrelationships with artists, colleagues and friends. Her autobiography reflects her greatness as a person as she shares her joys and experiences with depth and meaning that ough her interactions with musical masters all over the world. She exemplifies the artist in reservoir of the world."

Inquirer music critic Antonio C. Rita referred to Tita King as the grand dame of Philippine music who pioneered in the blending of the two great traditions of music — eastern and western — that showcased the dynamism of Philippine musical culture.

Journalist and baritone Nestor Mata said upon learning of Kasilag's death: "We mourn the death of a great pillar of Philippine music and culture. Long live Tita King!"

Manila's music world mourned the death of a great composer, music educator and nurturing mother of budding musicians.

Pianist Cecile Licad, calling from New York, told the Inquirer: "Her death is a big loss to Philippine music. I consider her an icon. During her years at the CCP she initiated the formation of the Young Artists Foundations, the National Music Competition for Young Artists (Namyca) and other programs which benefitted young talents that included me. Her years at the CCP was the golden age...the growth of all the arts, especially music. I will miss her presence in my concerts."

Violist pianist Josephine Cuo, graduate of Philippine High School of the Arts and who, like Kasilag, also studied at the Eastman School of Music, University of Rochester, New York, "Tita King is the mother of all Filipino artists. Seeing her healthy years, she never missed a concert, an art exhibit, a book launching or any cultural events. When I was doing my cultural research at Eastman, she practically mailed all her piano works and annotated the interpretation of her music to me. That's how giving she is."

Avant-garde music

Asensio, with whom Kasilag collaborated with several musical productions, told the Inquirer: "Tita King is the Philippine pioneer in the creation of Filipino avant-garde music in this country. I was her willing guinea pig in her experiments of vocal music which were then considered a novelty, her original music and arrangements of folk songs always bore an underpinning of humor which arose as diverse of her were self-underneath a very unsophisticated universe."

Pianist Ingrid Sala Sarmenario, who was the soloist in Kasilag's "Divertimentoon for Piano and Orchestra" under the baton of the composer herself, said the musical is remember the outbreak in her her generosity of spirit and endless advocacy in the development of youthful talents.

"Her innovative musical fusion of eastern and western techniques, from and style enriched Philippine music without distracting from each other's uniqueness," she said.

Violinist and Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra (PPO) member Jeffrey Solares said: "We in the orchestral music scene consider Kasilag's 'Philippine Scenes' as one of the fifty First Filipino orchestral works alongside Bonifacio Ilarde's 'By The Hillside,' Jose Pedro's 'Scenes in Rabesalense' and Pedro Ignacio Flagrando's."

Soprano and UST artist professor Gloria Cornejo considered Kasilag a great musician who left inspiration in the young in the musical world. "She was always hardworking and very focused. I performed her folk songs in Florence, Italy, for my master's degree and her song cycle with Prof. Regalado Jose at the Concert at the Park. I'd like to think the contribution lot to the development of Philippine music," she said.

Music queen

Actress-from Aurora-free said Kasilag was not just a national artist, she was also an international artist, global educator, performer par excellence, composer and organizer of Philippine music in its purest form.

Recalled Rose Nieves five years ago, Mozelfilled honored her at the CCP Although blind and wheelchair-bound, she performed with splendid her ensemble "Musica Rag" with baritone E. She is the only music queen called King since the days of [illegible]."

Actress Richard Gomez and wife Sissi Sajia-Welch, a former public relations head of the CCP said Kasilag was a loving strong (godmother) to them. The couple said: "She cared and gave her all to the music industry. There will never be another Tita King."

Pianist Marivic Belleo said Tita King composed and performed music that revealed the true Filipino soul.

"She was an amazingly opulent, modest, youthful and prolific artist. She was my idol and offering who inspired countless other artists. She will live forever through her music."

The 20th Noneya is dedicated to Kasilag, according to its organizers director Ramon Sarmiento. "Tita King inspired a whole generation of young musicians and it is for Bring that we dedicate this competition to her. She was one of the unsung heroes behind this program for young artists," he said.

Kasilag's remains lie at the private chapel of Loyola Memorial Chapels in Guadalupe, Makati City. As a national artist, she will be given a state funeral, the details of which will be announced later. There is a special Mass tonight at the Loyola chapel which would be officiated by Fr. Manuel Masaeda.

Across the NATION

Soldiers take over Zambales mine site

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—AT LEAST 80 ARMY soldiers have taken over a mine site in Masinloc, Zambales, following a business dispute there, Gov. Amor Deloso told the Inquirer on Sunday.

Deloso said Ben Teodoro Benitez, president of the Consolidated Mining Inc. (CMI), sent the soldiers to secure the Coto Mines.

At least 20 arrived on Friday and 60 more came on Saturday with an armored personnel carrier. They belong to the Army's 24th Infantry Battalion.

Asked if he indeed tapped the military to take control of Coto Mines and intervene in the business dispute, Teodoro said: "I don't know anything about that. I'm an old man (81) to be recruiting for that."

Mil. Gen. Ralph Villanueva, chief of the 7th Infantry Division, denied reports that his troops took over the Coto Mines.

"The 24th IB did not take over Coto Mines. Contrary to what some unscrupulous persons are reporting to the media and to the politicians: The troops were there on legitimate operations. While there, the battalion reported to them the presence of 20 armed men believed to be Communist rebels," he said.

Villanueva said the mayor of Masinloc as well as the CMI allowed the troops to pursue the rebels in the area.

Military campaign

The operations in Coto Mines, Villanueva said, was part of the military's campaign to rid the area of communist rebels and other armed groups.

The soldiers did not bear any arms, he said.

Amanda Lim, who now owns the operating contract of Compañia Minera with CMI, said she bought the chromite tailings for P41 million from the Benguet Mines months before the latter's operating agreement with the CMI expired on July 8, 2007.

She said she used the income from the chromite sales to obtain the operating contract of Compañia Minera with CMI to rehabilitate the underground mines within the government's reservations in Coto Mines.

Jerry Sugging and former Environment Secretary Michael Defensor used to own Compañia Minera but they had sold the firm's operating agreement to Lim.

Defensor defended Lim.

"Technically, what happened was she bought the 140 percent shares of our company," Defensor said.

He said he said Sugging have nothing to do with the current dispute but said Lim's position is solid.

Teodoro said CMI has held claims over the Coto Mines since 1994. According to him, the role of chromite tailings by Benguet Mines in Lim was wrong.

"We're still the operator. Benguet has no rights in that," Teodoro said.

Teodoro would not say how Compañia Minera figured out in the deal with Lim, but said Defensor was not with the company at that time.

Deloso said Sugging and Defensor were out of the dispute because they have been business partners in Davao then veteran in Batulao town by their mining project with the Chinese company Nickel Asia.

Teodoro said Lim admitted to him in an earlier meeting that she was acting as a dummy for Deloso.

She said he confronted Deloso about this and was told that he was only helping Lim because she was his political leader.

Intervention

Deloso denied having businessmen behind the new operator of Compañia Minera.

"I'm just speaking out because it is not proper for the military to be intervening in business disputes that are happening in my area," Deloso said.

On April 28, retired Army Maj. Oscar Calimlim, Benguet Inc.'s president for security, informed the mayor of the arrival of 60 soldiers from the 24th IB tasked to take over the CMI post, which is 20 km east of Coto Mines. The post is used by Lim and other miners to export chromite. — Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

A day in the life of Cotabato evacuees

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Inquirer Mindanao

THE ELDERLY and children are among the many evacuees who took temporary shelter in Pikit, North Cotabato.

PIKIT, NORTH COTABATO—SAMIR Tales sat herself down and stared at the pitch black night as she tried to cast out fears she couldn't. the teenage Meling from the translator radio placed in the middle of eight makeup-covered mat gathered three names from her.

The broadcast was in Magindanawan and the only comprehensible words for non-speakers were the terms MOA-AD (memorandum of agreement) and BJE (Bangsamoro Juridical Entity), repeated many times over by the commentator who later was identified as Bai Bai Bandila, who spoke for the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Tezin's anxious face, visible from the light of a gas lamp hanging from one of the unfinished trees in the evacuation center in Barangay Sanchuran here, quickly turned clueless.

Radio

She continued to listen. The news also fell into silence, intently listening to the broadcast while in the background, maybe from a nearby village, gunshots were heard, sending up an ardent tumble out of the tent.

Each night since the number of evacuees swelled because of the intense fighting between MILF rebels and government soldiers began, the scene would be like that.

This night was no different. They reacted angrily when Ebrahim and their some government people—particularly North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Pinol and his group of Dulcopop—have opposed the signing of MOA-AD which could have been the start of the resumption of the formal peace negotiations.

This would mean, Tezin said, that their children would be sleeping on the cold ground for many more nights.

The Presidente, she said, must give to the Bangsamoro people of Mindanao their freedom, meaning they were losing so much to this war.

Once again, Tezin's attention was distracted, this time by the convoy of six military trucks that passed by the national highway and made the ground shake.

"I hope (President) Macapagal-Arroyo would give in to the Moro's demands," she said.

Asked what these demands are, she said: "Peace."

Tezin, who said she's 40 but apparently looks more than that, is one of the Moro evacuees now temporarily sheltered in the Barangay evacuation center, one of the 21 evacuation sites in various parts of Pikit, mostly located in the poblacion area.

The Sanchuran evacuation center is considered the most miserable of all evacuation centers in Pikit with many of the evacuees still without capacities for their room, access to clean drinking water and enough food assistance. The recent clashes have forced at least 26,757 people into the evacuation sites, according to the regional office of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Tezin left her home in Barangay Dagangan on July 30 after government soldiers demanded up in their village, asking around about the presence of MILF rebels.

And because the soldiers did not show sure how that they would leave their village, Tezin left with the other villagers. She said the four-hour walk was hell.

Tezin's son—assuming about 4 meters by 6 meters—houses 20 individuals, including her 7-month pregnant daughter-in-law Rahel and her 2-year-old daughter and two other children.

"When it rains, we sit up when sleeping because of the wet ground. We carry the children to sleep," Tezin said.

Inside another tent, Rawa Mimbalang looked over her four children's tousled asleep on the ground covered by a thin sheet of plastic. As the rain was beginning outside, the mother, who herself had lost and caught, was worried her children would also get sick.

Mimbalang's tent was better compared to the cramped-up makeshift house—measuring only about 3 meters by 5 meters—which accommodates 13 individuals, one of whom was a sick old woman. Or their other neighbors who were still putting together sticks to become their temporary shelter.

The evacuees who sought shelter at the Pikit Elementary School were better off as they had desks and tables to sleep on. But classes will resume soon, and they will have to stay at the school grounds during the day.

The evacuees, most of them from the village of Dalengaoan, have started to build their makeshift houses outside the classrooms.

Fr. Eduardo "Pop-Ed" Vasquez Jr. OMI, priest of Pikit's Catholic Church, said there was no indication that the evacuees were set to go home, despite government statements that they could start living normally back again after the 60-day cease-fire have been issued on the affected villages.

The evacuees were supposed to stay in the evacuation centers to depend only on relief assistance in the next three months, the priest said.

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95 illegal sawmills closed in Caraga

SAN FRANCISCO, AGUSAN DEL SUR—THE intensified drive against "hot" logs by government forces ranges in the last two months has resulted in the closure of at least 95 illegal sawmills operating in several areas in the Caraga Region.

Operatives of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources have also seized 1,981 pieces of red lauan kalibkan in a remote village in Lanuza town in this province after they caught laborers trying to haul them in a private land ready for transport.

At least eight sawmills in Tandag City and in the remote villages in Tago, Agusan and Cagwait in Surigao del Sur were closed early this month after they were found to be operating without processing permits.

Six other big sawmills were also padlocked in Nasipit in Agusan del Norte and in Butuan City after operatives led by Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer Arthur Davis confiscated the equipment of the sawmills.

Hugo Arcana, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer, said sawmill operators can secure only two documents and permits with the DENR or they would face criminal charges for violating forestry laws.

DENR regional director Ishmerto Amper said they would have to wait for Environment Secretary Lito Atienza to approve the Regional Rationalization Plan before they issue permits.

Last month, 60 sawmill plants in Agusan del Sur and 21 others in Agusan del Norte were closed.

Meanwhile, the team led by Agusan del Sur Press Sinto Bacisa confiscated 193 pieces of "hot" logs with an estimated volume of 1,105 cubic meters of premium species in the village of Mat. Tenorio the latter's town were hauling it to a private land.

Bacisa said the confiscated illegally cut logs have an average diameter of 50 inches and about 20 to 22 meters long. — Chris E. Pangconlihan, Inquirer Mindanao

Clark secures Sacobia sub-zone vs squatters

NEWSBRIEFS

■ MAHIA VIZCAYA

Indian trader slain

AN INDIAN businessman was shot and killed in front of his house in Bayombong town on Wednesday, police said.

Acting provincial police director Senior Supt. Pedro Dangoloan said the victim, Kiran Kishinchi, 31, was shot as he was about to enter the gate of his house in Barangay Don Mariano Perez at around 11:30 a.m.

Bishinchi, who runs a money lending business, was a younger brother of Bomber Singh, who was also killed two years ago.

Melvin Gascon, Inquirer Northern Luzon

■ DAGUPAN CITY

Austrian nabbed for killing of wife

POLICE arrested an Austrian after he allegedly shot and killed his Filipina wife in San Fabian, Pangasinan, on Thursday night, police said on Friday.

Chief Insp. Dinio Quintania, San Fabian police chief, said Alison Peter, 33, died from a bullet wound in her right temple.

The husband, Gernot Roland Peter, 40, now arrested following the shooting at past 8:30 p.m. Thursday and was detained at the San Fabian police station. The incident took place at the Ely Lotus Beach Resort, which the Peter couple operated in the last 10 years in the coastal village of Malalin, San Vicente.

Quintania said Peter, who was drunk when policemen arrived at the resort, had denied that he killed his wife.

Gabriela Baron, Inquirer Northern Luzon

■ MAHIA ECIJA

Ex-vice mayor, village chair shot dead

A FORMER vice mayor of Gabaldon town was gunned down in front of a welcoming group on Thursday. Gabaldon police chief Senior Insp. Romeo Marzan said Bonifacio Clemente, 56, died from four bullet wounds in his head. Marzan said Clemente, who was Gabaldon vice mayor from 2001 to 2004, went to the shop to have his vehicle's tires checked when two men in a black motorcycle approached and shot him.

In Nueva Ecija, the chair of a farming village in Cabiao town was shot and killed on Wednesday night, Senior Supt. Pedro Dangoloan, acting provincial police director, said. Rodolfo Tenlo, 57, village chief of Sicsic, was attacked as he was walking on his way home from a wake at 10:30 p.m. Dangoloan said personal vendetta might be the motive in the killing, but this was unconfirmed, as the possible motive is "for the time."

Nicolina Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon, and Melvin Gascon, Inquirer Northern Luzon

■ CITY OF SAN FERNANDO

Dengue kills 18 people in C. Luzon

EIGHTEEN persons in Central Luzon, mostly children, have died from dengue fever as the virus-carrying mosquitoes thrived in the region since January this year, almost double the death toll for the same period last year, the regional Department of Health said in a report here Thursday.

The deaths occurred in Pampanga and Bataan, the health officials said. Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac and Zambales have not recorded any dengue fatalities.

Dengue cases totaled eight in Aurora, 141 in Bataan, 585 in Bulacan, 430 in Nueva Ecija, 119 in Tarlac and 194 in Zambales.

Rosalie Dupio, Inquirer Central Luzon

■ SORSOGON CITY

Fishkill reported

RESIDENTS of Cataingan and Balatasan in Masbate province alert over the discovery of dead fish and crabs also in their shoreline.

Sandra Lardizabal, of the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist here, said the dead fishes and crabs were found by fishermen in Cataingan and Dalid at Sorsogon Bay on Wednesday.

Officials of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources said they would conduct water analysis to determine the cause of the fish kill.

Roy Dorcadia, Inquirer Southern Luzon

■ LUCENA CITY

2 NPA rebels slain in Quezon clash

TWO SUSPECTED New People's Army rebels were killed and an Army trooper was wounded in an encounter between government troops and around 30 NPA rebels at about 6 a.m. in Barangay Talisoyan, Calauag, Quezon Friday morning, Supt. Ceasar Tabanao, spokesperson of the Southern Luzon Command based here in Camp Nakar.

Tabanao said Lt. Col. Edgar Mapoy, commander of the 730th IB, received information from villagers on the presence of rebels and launched a similar operation.

Delfin Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

MAYON SMOKES
Children bring on the shadow of Mayon volcano in Barangay Libong, Sto. Domingo, Albay while on school early morning with the picturesque volcano in the background. Mt. Mayon, which opened ash as a mild explosion last Sunday, is eying for a open to die. Mon Tayan/Watchers of Mayon online search as www.phe.com.

PNPA cadet drowns in campus creek

CALAMBA CITY—A GRADUATING CADET of the Philippine National Police Academy died Saturday afternoon after drowning in a creek inside their campus.

Chief Insp. Christopher Olaso, Silang police chief, said Rengon Mangalino, 24, died at around 1:30 p.m. when he and his classmates took a dip in the shallow area of the creek and were met by a strong current.

"They risked taking the shortcut because that the creek was swollen," Olaso said in a phone interview.

Mangalino's classmates survived and reported the incident, he said.

Mangalino was expected to graduate in 2009, said his uncle Teddy Acosta, adding that their family was asking for an autopsy. A police report has been filed.

Olaso dismissed the allegation that the cadet died in a hazing rites according to the police report he filed because of drowning.

Mangalino's body was subjected to an autopsy, he added. *Alita Ciudadano Calleja, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Peace councils pushed in Eastern Visayas

By Vivencio S. Lobro
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—THE MILITARY IS PUSHing for the creation of peace and development councils covering the main islands of Eastern Visayas in a bid to hasten development and end the insurgency problems in the region.

Brig. Gen. Arthur Tabaquero, commanding general of the Army's 8th Infantry Division based in Catbalogan City in Samar, said the councils would serve as a "road map to ensure our common aspiration of achieving general peace and development in this region."

Tabaquero said the officers of such councils could be appointed or elected from among the local chief executives and local government leaders and officials.

The proposal to create the councils was presented by Tabaquero during the meeting of the Regional Peace and Order Council (RPOC-8) on Thursday here in the city.

Eastern Samar Gov. Ben Evardone, chair of RPOC-8, said the "proposal is not only timely but also long overdue."

Tabaquero said the councils would be known as the Samar Island Peace and Development Council (SIPDC) and the Leyte and Biliran Islands Peace and Development Council (LIBPD), and their name would be "modified to oversee and coordinate the implementation of peace and development programs and projects in the islands."

Samar Island comprises the provinces of Samar, Eastern Samar and Northern Samar, while Leyte Island is composed of Leyte and Southern Leyte provinces. Biliran is an island province.

Development needs

These six provinces comprise Eastern Visayas, which is one of the depressed regions in the country. Data from the National Statistics Coordination Board showed that poverty incidence among the population in the region was 45 percent as of 2003.

The region, particularly Samar Island, is in dire need of more good roads, stable electricity supply and more irrigation systems, among other needs for development.

Encouraging which the military hopes to quell by 2010, has also been plaguing the region for decades now.

Tabaquero reported that as of June 2008, there were still 275 barangays, or 4 percent of the total 6,392 barangays in the region, that are influenced by the New People's Army, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

He, however, said inroads had been made in the anti-insurgency campaign, with more 90 insurgents affected. Insurgents "Monster" also this year from the rebels and with the surrender of 84 NPA members, and recovery of 26 high-powered and 45 low-powered guns from suspected NPA rebels.

The military leader said that "defeated" but guerrilla fronts of communist rebels in Samar Island, namely the Southern Front in Eastern Samar and the South Samar Front in Samar.

Tabaquero said they also officially declared that now that the island of Leyte is already cleared of armed insurgents.

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Gin Kings force deciding Game 7

Alexander lifts Ginebra past Air21

By Marcus R. Castillo

PLAYING ON PURE HEART AND cheered by more than 10,000 screaming souls, a weilding outmanned Barangay Ginebra side rounded out from the jaws of defeat to make sure that the classic Smart Tiropa Cup title series sees an end to destroyo—a Game 7.

The Gin Kings rode the heroics of Chris Alexander in the third period last night before holding off a series of Air21 uprisings for an 80-73 victory that forced this rubber match at the SBD Araneta Coliseum this Wednesday.

Alexander posted 20 of his PBA career-high 27 points in the third period when Ginebra finally pulled ahead after enabling by 16 points in the second and by as many as 22 in the third.

"You just know it is the spirit of the Barangay Ginebra," coach Joseng Ureñeta said. "We are walking wounded, but the heart is still there. It is the only thing that is keeping us in the series. Good things happen all of them."

Working hard after walking, 17-10, with 7:21 left in the second period, the Kings closed out the third quarter with a 13-0 run to take a 61-53 lead they never relinquished.

But it certainly didn't look that easy with the Express fighting like they were the ones who invoked the win more than anything only to suffer a bad break minus import Dawon Thomas fouled out with 4:03 to go.

Magnificent rally

Air21 zoomed to a 14-8 lead as the Kings missed their first six shots and committed three of their six first half turnovers. The Express pushed this to their biggest, 33-17, after a JC Intal three-point with 7:21 left in the second quarter.

The half ended at 37-34 in favor of the Express, marking a magnificent rally by Ginebra in the final four minutes of the second period where the Kings scored 17 points and held Air21 to just one point.

Ureñeta cited getting something out of Mark Caguioa, but it was more than that "Spunk" was playing here. Ginebra was already without Jay-Jay Helterbrand, who limped out of Game 2 because of a pulled hamstring.

Bothered by restriction in his knee and playing with an obvious limp, Caguioa was rebooked in and out of the game for just seven minutes in the first half and was scoreless after only one attempt.

It was clear that Thomas and Alexander would battle to see right from the get-go as both reinforcements completed their respective double-doubles-nights in the first two periods with Thomas scoring 21 points and grabbing 13 rebounds and Alexander finishing with 10 and 12.

The scores

BARANGAY GINEBRA 80— Alexander 20, Brondial 10, Intal 9, Tenorio 8, Caguioa 7, Ingram 5, Arboleda 4, Salvacion 2, Cruz 2, Hontiveros 2.

AIR21 73— Thomas 21, De Ocampo 18, Jumbrina 10, David 10, Quiñahan 7, Arboleda 4, Wilson 3, Uyloan 2, Asi 2, Intal 1, Asoman 0.

Quarters: 19-21, 37-34, 57-53, 80-73.

Air21's Nonoy Baclao shoots over Ginebra's Paul Artadi in their championship game last night

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RP Youth edges China for third; Lithuania wins

By Jane Manaois

THE NOKIA-SP YOUTH TEAM declared itself ready for the tough battle ahead after downing China, 84-80, yesterday to clinch third place in the 6th-nation Manila Youth Basketball Invitational Championship at the Cuneta Astrodome.

While acknowledging that it will be a tall order for his under-16 team to perform well in their debut in the Fiba Asia Men's Championship set in Tehran, Iran next week, RP coach Franz Pumaren said the semi-tournament was good training for his boys.

"This tournament generally helped us prepare for the Fiba Asia championships in terms of building the team's confidence and exposing the players to different opponents outside Southeast Asia," Pumaren said.

The RP youth team booked a ticket in the Asian championship scheduled Aug. 23-Sept.3 after topping the Southeast Asian Basketball Association Championship in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Led by skipper Frank Golla Jr., 6-foot-4 center Stefanie Torres, GAAP juniors MVP Samuel Joseph Manuta, playmaker Ryan Buenconsejo and winger Gabriel Bernard, the Filipino kids breezed to an 84-66 win over Chinese-Taipei, Lebanon and United Arab Emirates.

Pumaren said the Taiwanese would most likely field the same team that his wards subdued, 84-80, Friday night.

"They were trying to hide something from us. They literally ran any plays at all," said Pumaren. "At least, we already got so much data on top players."

A day after the Filipinos dumped the Taiwanese, Chinese-Taipei revealed its top weapons...guard Chen-yuan Huang shooting—when it turned back Lithuania in overtime. Chinese-Taipei and Lithuania were still playing in a one-game championship battle at presstime.

Pumaren acknowledged the need to watch out for Taiwanese shooters Lee Ming-hui, Lin Li-kai and Liu Wei-han aside from keeping an eye on the bigger bugs Chang Ho-wei and Chen Po-chen.

Pumaren said his coaching staff has yet to scout Lebanon and the UAE.

"I haven't seen them (Lebanon and UAE) yet. We're lacking in height but we will offset it with hour and hard work," said Pumaren, a veteran of many national teams as a player during his prime.

Besides Torres, Pumaren could only choose from among Philip Manalang (6-1), Jun Paul Evangelista (5-5) and Cedo (5-3) to man the slot.

His other players are Filipino-Canadian Matthew Wright, Jaguar Mendiana, Mark Joel De Guzman and point guard Joseph Yabut-Yabut.

In the Fiba-Asia championships, the top two teams from four groups advance to the quarterfinals. After another round, the top four squads will proceed to the crossover semifinals with the winners disputing the championship.

In the championship game, Marcus Kadwinkian erupted for 23 points as Lithuania turned back Chinese-Taipei, 87-73, to nab the four-nation tournament.

The scores

PHILIPPINES 84— Golla 20, Wright 18, Manuta 14, Torres 12, Cedo 9, De Guzman 2, Bard 2, Yeso 2, Penales 1, Buenconsejo 0, Yabut 0.

CHINESE-TAIPEI 80— Hsu, Lu-hsi 19, Ai 19, Wang 14, Zhan 14, Cao 7, Hsu, Jeremy 2, Wang, Tingkang 4

Quarters: 25-20, 40-32, 61-48, 84-80.

LITHUANIA 87— Kadwinkian 28, Nikolaitis 18, Stanaitis 17, Zaringa 13, Mikelionis 5, Shiras 2, Sinkus 0, Dzordzikovic, Stanys 0.

CHINESE-TAIPEI 73— Lee M. 20, Chen 17, Chang Y.T. 13, Chang Y.C. 11, Lin 8, Hsu S. 3, Wu-Hao 1, Li S., Lu Yung-Hao 0.

Quarters: 15-25, 36-38, 55-58, 87-73.

Lions tangle with Altas today

DEFENDING CHAMPION SAN Beda College is favored to end Final Four bid when the Red Lions tangle with the collar-dwelling Perpetual Help Altas today in the NCAA men's tournament at the Cuneta Astrodome.

The Lions (8-2) are heavily favored over the Altas (1-8) in their 2 p.m. encounter.

The Red Cubs and the Altas meet in the 4 p.m. game.

Aplus METRO
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

DID YOU KNOW

IMAGING Sanico in Quezon City was one of the routes taken by Katipunerong after the Tagalog-speaking revolt discovered their secret organization and started to go after them. It was also where Melchora Aquino resided and took care of the revolutionaries.
Cyril L. Rondain's Inquirer Research

MMDA bans tricycles on Katipunan

Move draws criticism from drivers, students

By DJ Yap

TRICYCLES HAVE BEEN BANNED FROM PLYING the stretch of Katipunan Avenue by the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, drawing complaints from transport operators, students and residents.

In another attempt to ease traffic on the busy thoroughfare, the MMDA began strictly enforcing the tricycle ban on Katipunan Avenue last Friday, saying tricycles had to cause worse traffic in the area.

But Alex Baes, president of the Loyola-Diamal Tricycle Operators and Drivers Association, said the ban had drawn complaints from passengers and residents, especially those going inside the campuses of Ateneo de Manila University or Miriam College.

"A lot of passengers are affected, especially students. They have to walk several meters just to go to the other side," he said in a phone interview.

Baes said he, along with barangay leaders and other transport leaders, sought a meeting on the tricycle ban with Quezon City Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista, who was standing in for Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr.

But nothing was set during the meeting, as the MMDA had yet to respond to their written request, he said.

Baes added that based on his observations, it was not the presence of tricycles that caused traffic gridlock but the erratic traffic policies of the MMDA, such as its extending schemes and the closing and opening of certain U-turn slots.

But MMDA Traffic Operations Center Executive Director Angelito Sergio de Dios disagreed, saying tricycles were a big factor in the traffic situation on Katipunan Avenue.

"They're not supposed to be there. They affect traffic. They obstruct passing vehicles all the time when turning corners," he told the Inquirer.

WHAT ARE THESE VEHICLES DOING HERE!
Ortanez, 11, of Pateros City writes: "Please ask the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority to check on public transport operators who have transformed Ross Boulevard near the Coastal mall and before the Redemptorist Church and the MRT Taft Avenue Station into a terminal. The illegally parked vehicles are the cause of traffic problems. Motorists and commuters can't help but hate transportation when they pass by this area. Help!"

Citizen's call

Waste dumping in San Juan City

TRASH and sacks of human waste, oily waste and chemical waste are dumped regularly by a sewage excavation services company in Aranbrook Hills, San Juan City, thus polluting the air and vandalizing the residents. Its operations in San
MARGARITA PEREZ, 62,
San Juan City

Forgers of fake docus move to new sites in Manila

MORE THAN some "small-time forgers" are engaged in fake diplomas, driver's licenses, SSS documents, etc. as Rizal Boulevard in Manila are now. Ditto in Quiapo, Manila, where fake documents can be had for "just 3,000 pesos," makers of fake diplomas, drivers' licenses, SSS documents, etc. as Recto were arrested. Now these are moving to the same on Rizal Boulevard near Bustillos Street and on Concepcion Street in Sta. Cruz. Philippine educational institutions have lost a lot of credibility because of these persons involved in making forged or fraudulent documents. Can Mayor Lim do something about this?
ALMA ORLINDA JR. Manila

Cinema patrons with no respect for flag

IT'S REALLY an affront when people watching movies don't even stand up when the Philippine National Anthem is played before the last screening. I have seen this happen in two separate occasions at the Gateway Cinemas in the Araneta Complex. We hope these people who have no respect for the flag will be given a lesson. Isn't there a law on this that should be strictly enforced?
M. LAPIZ, 47, Quezon City

Overpass, not underpass, is dirty

CORRECTION, please: It's the overpass in front of the Philippine Coconut Authority building—and not the underpass—that is very dirty. Assuming CPI, we should build an additional. (They have constructed three restrooms, the stink is nauseating!) I go to the Quezon Memorial Circle four times a week, in the afternoon and I have to pass the overpass in going to the Circle in Quezon City, and I think the underpass is very nice. The underpass is well-maintained by janitors and guarded by watchmen.
SAM SANTOS, 52
Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City

Switch to LPG, Marikina tells trike drivers

Lim opens training center

By Allison W. Lopez

THE MANILA CITY GOVERNment has opened a skills training center that offers short courses to residents in Tayuman, Tondo, who want to earn extra money.

A project of the Manila Department of Social Welfare, the center currently offers courses for hotel and restaurant services, massage therapy, manicure and pedicure, cookery, baking and food processing, baking and beauty culture.

Lim said the Manila DSWD is also offering internships for those ranging from P3,000 to P5,000 for those who want to put up their own businesses.

MetroBriefs

Model loses P7 million to robbers

A 24-YEAR-OLD model lost around P7 million worth of jewelry and other valuables to robbers who broke into her apartment in Quezon City over the weekend, police said yesterday. Ruby Jean Ventura reported the incident to the police after she came home to her apartment in the Buenos Loyola Building on Morato Street and discovered that someone had climbed over the back to her front door. Among the items missing from her apartment were two Rolex watches, a gold Bulgari watch, a computer laptop, a cell phone, a digital camera, bottles of perfume, a Sony PlayStation unit and an undetermined amount of cash. PO2 Reyna Rodriguez, case investigator, said the cash and valuables had been taken from a plastic cabinet inside Ventura's room. Rizal explained that the victim discovered that she had been robbed when she arrived at her apartment together with some relatives on Saturday night after spending several days in Baguio City. Aside from members of the subdivision "Mayor Bahay Cong," the police investigator said that somebody who knows the victim could also be behind the incident.
Marlon Ramos

By Beverly T. Mendrinal

THE MARIKINA CITY GOVERNment has urged tricycle drivers to switch to liquefied petroleum gas to cut their operating expenses amid rising fuel prices.

The City Transportation Management Office recently conducted a seminar on the cost benefits of using LPG for representatives of different tricycle groups in Marikina.

CTMO chief Primo Feliciano said that by using LPG, tricycle drivers and operators can reduce their daily fuel cost by as much as P487 or more than P12,000 in a month.

"The savings generated from LPG can be used to augment daily expenses like food and oil in stations," Feliciano said in a statement.

Apart from being cheaper, LPG is also more environment-friendly compared to diesel-powered engines, she added.

Based on studies, LPG-run engines emit 10 to 20 percent less carbon monoxide compared to engines that use conventional fuels. In addition, they discharge 99 percent less ultra-fine particles and nitrogen oxides, Feliciano said.

The CTMO chief said the city government is drafting plans to enforce the use of tricycle drivers and operators. Right now, she added, the process costs P14,000.

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CANNES LIONS
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Delegates bring home global persp from Cannes Lions 20

By Mundi Ocampo, Inquirer Corporate Relations

More than two dozen delegates from the Philippines soaked up the lovely sunshine along the French Riviera during the 2008 Cannes Lions International Advertising Festival. The busy tourist city of Cannes, France, teemed with more than 10,000 of the world's movers and shakers in different marketing and advertising trades last June.

The Philippine Daily Inquirer's senior vice president Rose Romero said advertising vice president Pepito Olano played hosts to the Philippine contingent. They were the official country representatives of the week-long festival, which marked its 55th year with the biggest delegate turnout in event history.

Although it has been the festival's most popular claim, the Cannes Lions awards for excellent global advertising are but one of the many activities the congress has to offer. Filipino attendees, who included both Award Cannes Lions winners and new enthusiasts—notably a number of execs from client companies—were treated to the wealth of information and the breadth of topics discussed in various seminars and workshops.

In an effort to encourage different players in the local marketing and advertising industries to take advantage of the full Cannes Lions experience, Inquirer hosted a number of its valued business partners at the event. Smart Gaisano Tina Montinola, Toyota Motors' Dan Avendaño, Globe's Cecille Francisco, Care Mercury' Andres Villanueva, DDB Stindio's Mike Enlayd and 2009 Inquirer's Mr. and Ms. Photogenic were all in the Inquirer delegation through their participation in the brand-sheer's 2008 Cannes Lions promo.

Leigh-Anne of TBWA Philippines joined the Cannes Lions Radio Jury, making her the country's second inclusion in the prestigious group of jurors, with DDB0 Gaisano's David Guerrero as the first Filipino judge in the Radio category in 2007.

J. Romero & Associates' creative tandem of Gigo Quiquero and JB Burgos competed against their Singapore counterparts in the Young Lions print competition during the festival. The pair was chosen to represent the country by winning the Creative Guild's Inquirer Young Skillet competition held in February based in Makati.

Lea Jan Briboneo

When asked about what they have gleaned from their Cannes Lions experience, Quiquero offered a succinct advice to fair fellow advertising creatives: "don't write an ad, start a conversation."

Others stated about how the festival has opened their minds to new perspectives. Forester called the Cannes Lions a "delightful experience." Her then speaks of her experience at the conventions, with "the extensive unprecedented of seminars and workshops...all featuring excellent speakers...left the participants buzzing with ideas."

"An interesting discussion centered on how a strong advocacy and belief system, that reinforces the company's core values, can infuse new passion to a brand and give it an emotional life...more than just product features and fight ad replies can ever deliver," she said.

Ardad was thrilled at first be, evoking from a media agency found a refreshing outlook on his company's trade. "I went to Cannes expecting a creative showcase but came back to realize that media is the New Creative," he said.

"It is cann from emerg "creative" i just creativ more an ar idea and m for choosing travel differ

Much awa 2008 Canne of the daily list and expe

Villanueva "The Cannes sophisticate than what a learning lab" recently the

"It was de Daily Inquir the world a lend it," he

Joel Sosaida of Lea Romero, Dan Avendaño of Toyota and Romeo del Rosario

Philippine delegates on the red carpet

Marites Jaymo with David Bruggs

J. Romero creative head Sho Macale with the Cannes Young Lions contenders Skyzz Quiquero and JB Burgos

Toyota's Dan Avendaño, Care Mercury' Andres Villanueva, PDI SVP Rose Romero, Cannes Lio Tony Savage and Philip Thomas, and PDI VP Pepito Olano

Rose Romero of Lea Romero Philippines

TBWA's John Nuevo

Angel Guerrero of Adobo

McCann Philippines trio Peter Acosta, Noel Barrinuevo and Nandy Villar on the Palais Des Festivals

JWT host creatives Joe Di and Dara Fuentes

Members of the P together in Canne

Philippines' Cannes jury representatives in radio, Leigh Reyes of TBWA

Lunch break along the Croisette. (Standing left to right) Digital Arts Romero, Rachel and Pepito Olano, and Mike Enlayd of DDB Manila. Seated, Toyota and Cannes Lions representatives, Carlo Reyes Jaymo, and Marites Jaymo of DMB Jaymo&Jaymo

Inquirer anno Cannes Lions

A couple of months from this year's highly-successful Cannes Lions International Advertising Festival, and the Philippine Daily Inquirer is already primming up for next year's congress with the Inquirer Cannes Lions Print Invites promo for 2009.

As the official country representative of the Cannes Lions International Advertising Festival, the Inquirer continues to encourage the local marketing and advertising industries to participate in the annual gathering of the world's best and

pectives
008

Prasoon Joshi of McCann India presides over the Outdoor Jury

At the podium, Cannes Lion President Craig Davis and Festival CEO Philip Thomas

Prasoon Talked-about Jay for Lifebuoy

Grammy Tony Bennett inspires ad community in Cannes

DMB JaymeSyfu's Hector Japros, 2008's Pilipino Juror and Bronner's Stephen Cruz

Last year's Radio Jury President David Bonstein with Cannes Lions executives Philip Thomas and Terry Savage

Philippines delegation with Sandra Paras of Manila enjoying dinner

Cannes Lions enthusiasts from Starcom, Bringles Cruz, Lizelle Herdoiza and Ellen Crisostomo

A Cannes Bronze Media Lion for the Gabriela poster campaign

Gabriela 'Duct Tape' A Surprise Winner at Cannes Lions 2008

By Angel Guerrero

DMB JaymeSyfu, a Manila ad agency affiliated with the DDB network of communications companies, won the Philippines' only Cannes Lions award on the 2008 Cannes Lions International Advertising Festival.

DMB JaymeSyfu's Bronze Grighy for the Gabriela "Duct Tape" poster campaign, was the country's first Cannes Media Lion. It competed against 2,300 entries from 70 countries in the Media category, it won in a competition usually dominated by media independent agencies.

The international jurors at the Cannes Lions, headed by Mindshare worldwide CEO Brandon Pittman, chose Gabriela "Duct Tape" for it being a "media effort that generated revenue environments in ways that are stimulating, extremely innovative, engaging, encompassing and effective."

Ad advertising agencies Ed Brandt's performance with fourteen shortlisted ads. Young DMB JaymeSyfu brought in five the Gabriella "Duct Tape" campaign, Brandt "Brave" and Pro Life "Bogart" radio commercials, Tiburcio "Fish" poster and the Emakaren "Clock" TVC.

BBDO Guerrero, which has several Cannes Lions under its belt (two previous bronzes), had four ads shortlisted for 2008: three for their client MC 137 Radio Station in the Radio and Press, and one in Design for the WWF "Chewing Sticks".

Ogilvy & Mather, a Bronze winner last year, managed two for DFB's "Land" in the Press and Outdoor categories.

Last year's first Cannes Gold Lion winner in Radio, JWT, scored one more in the shortlists. This time, it was for the Shell "See We There Yet" radio spot.

TBWA Group Manapala Franz's humorously graphic "UT" for Cinemedia and Campaigns & Grey's Hummer Shampoo "Build" outdoor ad also made the cut.

A record of 36,000 entries from 85 countries competed for the coveted Lions at the prestigious Cannes Lions International Advertising Festival in France. The Philippines submitted a total of 157 entries in all categories. Delegates members also soared to over 10,000 in what Cannes Lions claims to be their biggest festival yet.

"It is no coincidence that agencies and clients across the world are connecting creatively and wishing to showcase their work at a global level at the festival," said Philip Thomas, the festival CEO.

Once again, the Philippine Daily Inquirer was the country's Official Festival Representative at Cannes. The newspaper's delegates, Felipe Otarte and Rose Briones, gave full support to the 30-member Philippine team. Clients from Smart Communications, Unilever, Globe, Starcom and Nestlé also graced the festival.

The country's two Young Lions representatives, JR Burgos and Honey Tiel Quijencio from J. Romero, along with Cannes Lions Radio juror Leigh Reyes of M&C Philippines, represented.

Winning "Duct Tape" Media entry for Gabriela by DMB JaymeSyfu, represented by Hector Japros and Herbert Hernandez

ounces plans for 2009
s Print Entries promo

more innovative minds to control fields.

Inquirer will be celebrating its 22nd anniversary by the end. of that year and throughout 2009, and 23 of the year's most innovative print ad placements in the breakdown will be seen as finalists at the Print (Print) category of next year's Cannes Lions advertising competition. A panel of judges from the Inquirer will pare through qualified entries and choose the best 23 prize finals to be sent to compete with outstanding ads from all over the world at Cannes Lions 2009.

The festival will take place in picturesque Cannes, France from June 21 to 27, 2009.

Detailed mechanics of the Inquirer-Cannes Lions Print Entries promo will be released soon to Inquirer's clients and agency partners. For more information, you may contact the Inquirer Corporate Relations Department at 897 0888 local 259.

The WORLD

Lilac Lorente B. Duno

Peacekeepers replace Russian troops

West presses for full withdrawal

GORI, GEORGIA—A RUSSIAN GENERAL ON Sunday said that peacekeepers were starting to replace regular troops in the flashpoint Georgian town of Gori, as Western pressure mounted on Russia for a full withdrawal.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel was due to visit the ex-Soviet republic on Monday and was expected to continue calls for a Russian pullout, required under a French-brokered peace deal between Moscow and Tbilisi.

In Gori, a Russian-occupied town beyond the conflict zone of separatist South Ossetia, the commanding general said that had already started to happen.

"The Russian troops are starting to pull out and Russian peacekeepers are coming in," Gen. Vyacheslav Borisov said at a crossroads 30 km from Tbilisi.

According to Borisov, Russia has now lifted a blockade of the town's outlawed since a five-day conflict in which Russian forces drove off a Georgian army assault against Moscow-backed separatists in South Ossetia.

"All the roads are free for humanitarian aid and Georgians," Borisov said.

"The peacekeepers are there and the troops are going out bit by bit," Borisov said.

However, it was not clear when the Russian pullout would be completed and there were no details about plans for Russian troops in other areas of Georgia.

Georgian police were prevented from entering Gori, prompting an argument in a crowded street between Borisov and the secretary of Georgia's National Security Council, Alexander Lomaia.

Pressly Postigo Minister Bernard Kouchner described the ceasefire as "fragile" in a Sunday newspaper interview and called for an international peacekeeping force in the area to Georgia "as quickly as possible."

Kouchner told the Journal du Dimanche that Russia's failure to withdraw its troops "was very worrying" and that a Russian troop pullout was "essential."

"The ceasefire is fragile, like all ceasefires ... But it is absolutely necessary for diplomacy and political pressure to exercise us," he said.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev signed a peace deal with Georgia on Saturday, but his troops again mobilized checkpoint by keeping hold of positions close to the capital Tbilisi.

Meanwhile Union of Youth violence in the west of the country were raised by an incursion of separatists from another breakaway region of Abkhazia into several Georgian villages.

Backed by Russian forces, the Abkhazian separatists ordered 23 villages in Georgian-controlled areas. Georgia's foreign ministry said in a statement.

Medvedev signed the ceasefire pact deal a day after Georgian's pro-Western President Mikheil Saakashvili.

The deal obliges all forces in Georgia to withdraw to positions held prior to the Russian invasion.

However, Russian troops—which vowed Georgia's small US-trained army in the fighting for control of South Ossetia—have the right to patrol "a few kilometers" deeper inside Georgia beyond the South Ossetia conflict zone, Georgian and French officials said on Saturday. AFP

RUSSIAN soldiers on an armored troop carrier roll past destroyed buildings on Aug. 16 in Tskhinvali, Georgia. Dozens of ragged Georgian captives were marched through the rebel city of South Ossetia, an separatists called on Tbilisi to recover the rotting corpses of its soldiers. AFP

Musharraf given deadline to resign or be impeached

PERVEZ MUSHARRAF

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan—A key ruling party official has given Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf a two-day deadline to quit or face impeachment proceedings.

Musharraf's ally Tuesday that he would not step down and was prepared to fight impeachment charges. But pressure on the battered mounted further after the ruling party drew up a draft of charges to support a potential impeachment.

"Musharraf is running out of time," Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi told reporters. "If he fails to decide to quit within the next two days, the impeachment process will take its course."

Qureshi is a member of the Pakistan People's Party, the dominant group in the ruling coalition that announced its intentions last week to impeach Musharraf.

The building maneuvers to throw the president out of office has injected even more uncertainty into an already volatile situation in Pakistan, a country whose stability the US considers critical to success in the war on terror.

Musharraf dominated Pakistani for years after seizing power in a 1999 military coup, making the country a key strategic ally of the US by supporting its fight against the Taliban and al-Qaeda. But his popularity at home has been dwindling.

Many Pakistanis blame him for their country on his alliance with the United States. Musharraf's popularity took its toll in losses in 2007 when he sacked judges and imposed emergency rule. Then his rivals came to power after February parliamentary elections, largely abolishing him.

There is no precedent for impeaching a president in Pakistan's turbulent 61-year history.

A president can be impeached for violating the constitution or "gross misconduct." Coalition officials have said Musharraf's removal of judges and imposition of emergency rule last year could be cause for impeachment.

On Friday, allies and rivals of the president confirmed back-channel talks were under way to avoid an impeachment process that could further destabilize Pakistan.

Musharraf's supporters want protection for him if he steps down, while suggesting they could use the courts to challenge an impeachment. AP

Nepal's Maoists in talks to form gov't

KATHMANDU—MAOIST NEPAL'S move to form the nation's first peacetime government this week, a party official said, marking a major step in their journey from rebel army to legitimate political power.

The talks come after former guerrilla chief Prachanda—whose name means "the fierce one"—was overwhelmingly elected prime minister by the country's lawmakers on Friday.

Maoist spokesperson Krishna Bahadur Mahara said the ultra-leftists were in negotiations with allied parties and hoped to form a government within days.

"There's an immediate need to bring all parties to a consensus consensus to take the country forward," he said late Saturday.

Since the Maoists signed up for peace in 2006, Nepal has undergone dramatic changes, with the rebels ending their bloody civil war, winning landmark polls and throwing out the monarchy.

The Maoists struck an alliance with two of Nepal's biggest first parties to ensure the elections would go ahead, the ruler ousted teacher whose real name is Pushpa Kamal Dahal.

The newly elected prime minister will formally take up the role on Monday after being sworn in by President Ram Baran Yadav, officials said.

The Maoists have promised to bring about a "social transformation" of the impoverished nation, along with radical economic reform. AFP

'New world order' seen after attack

By Christopher Baker

MEDIOUM—WHEN GEORGIA attacked South Ossetia late night of Aug. 7, it was clear that something out of the ordinary was afoot.

But how could have guessed the events which transpired with breathtaking speed over the next week would ring alarm bells around the world and, according to analysts, irrevocably alter the international order for many years to come.

Fundamental principles for diversity, security and law—with Russia and other countries once part of the Soviet Union, taken for granted in the West at least since the 1991 Soviet collapse, have abruptly been called into question.

Rules have changed

At the outset time, Russia has signaled that it considers the rules of the international game as it has been played for the past generation are a thing of the past, a thought that will give its ex-Soviet neighbors something to ponder.

"The current conflict will have dramatic repercussions for Russia and the international community as a whole for quite some time to come," said Yevgeny Volk, a political analyst with the US-based Heritage Foundation think-tank.

"It is the biggest geopolitical turning point since the 1991 Soviet collapse. It is a new stage in international relations, the end of any illusion about the peaceful nature of development in East-West relations," he said.

Numerous other experts agreed with this, saying that regardless of how the crisis is viewed: looking back and how it plays out in the future events will have been viewed that has already deeply impacted the global landscape.

"The status quo ante has gone forever," James Sleay, manager of the Russia and Eurasia program at the London-based research center Chatham House, wrote in an essay as the crisis unfolded.

Russian aims achieved

"Whatever happens now in the Caucasus, relations between Russia and the West (and Russia's 1990s-leaning neighbors) must surely, from this moment on, be overshadowed by all," Sleay said.

In expelling Georgia's bid to take control of the separatist province by force and then humiliating its once massive offensive into Georgia proper, Russia had a number of aims, several of which it has so far achieved, experts said.

These included the general aim of bolstering its weight in world affairs, the strategic aim of fortifying its presence in the Caucasus and the economic aim of stopping Bush into a rival oil and gas transport corridor.

"Russia's overriding aim is predetermined policy in search of an appropriate application," Matthias Bell Ebert, senior associate with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, said at a seminar last week in Washington.

"The situation in South Ossetia proved a perfect storm for Moscow," she said, according to a transcript of her remarks published by the Brookings Institution, another US policy-research organization.

Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili is strongly supported by the United States and Washington has for years said it backs his objective of reasserting Georgian control over South Ossetia and another breakaway province, Abkhazia.

Sporadic violence between rebel fighters and Georgian troops has both never had Tbilisi's intimate of life in Georgia since the two regions, both backed by Russia, de facto split from the country in the early 1990s.

Long-term impact

But what surprised many about the fighting that erupted there last week was how quickly it escalated into a major confrontation between Russia on one side and the United States and much of western Europe on the other.

"The long-term implications of that confrontation are only now beginning to dawn on policymakers around the world, analysts said.

"Russia had said for many years that it was ready to use force outside its borders" to defense of Russian citizens and interests, explained Dmitri Lukyanov, editor of the foreign policy review Russia in Global Affairs.

"But the fact of actually doing it changes the strategic situation," he said, adding. "At the critical moment, it appeared that the United States could not actually do anything" to help Georgia counter the Russian onslaught.

And this, analysts say, may further shake up the international system as Georgia, Ukraine and other ex-Soviet republics re-evaluate their alliances in their own relations with Russia, the United States and the world. AFP

You got VP text message: Democrats brace for Obama pick

OBAMA has promised to name his running mate by text message and e-mail.

By Stephen Collinson

WASHINGTON—US POLITICAL junkies will be casting nervous glances at their mobile phones this week, with Democratic White House pick Barack Obama promising to name his running mate by text message and e-mail.

In an unprecedented move, the Obama campaign says it will first reveal his choice of vice presidential nominees not in the political media pack, but to the two million supporters who have handcuffed his fib in history.

Many observers think the Illinois senator could make his pick as soon as this week, to give him time to showcase his presidential talent before the Democratic National Convention between Aug. 25 and 28 in Denver, Colorado.

Obama, 47, has said he does not want merely a ceremonial vice president, but is seeking an energetic top in his governing machine.

"I'm not interested in a vice president who I send off to go to Rwanda," Iowa's NBC television last month.

"I want somebody who is going to roll up their sleeves and be willing to work."

As the VP stakes heat up Obama's campaign team is scouring financial records and personal histories of potential picks for any hidden scandal.

Conventional wisdom has it that a vice presidential candidate must reflect the core message behind his bone campaign, or make up for his political deficiencies.

Since Obama is short of national security experience, he may opt for a veteran political hand.

Sen. Joseph Biden, former senator Sam Nunn, or even ex-United Nations ambassador Bill Richardson might be a fit, but picking an establishment figure might undercut his vow to reform Washington's clogged political system.

Or, the Illinois senator might choose to complement his youthful message, emulating Bill Clinton, who picked Al Gore in 1992.

Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine is from middle America, speaks fluent Spanish and may be able to help deliver his southern swing state, which Obama is targeting.

Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland, or Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell, who both delivered their states to Hillary Clinton in the Democratic primary, are long-shots and both say they will not accept if asked.

When Clinton admitted defeat to the Democratic nominating campaign Obama in June, she signaled she might accept the number two spot.

But "dream ticket" talk has since faded, with Clinton seen as a symbol of the "old politics" Obama vows to change.

Should Obama stick to close a woman nevertheless, he could go for Kathleen Sebelius, 60, a governor who has cross-partisan appeal in the traditionally Republican state of Kansas.

Or he may give the nod to Indiana Sen. Evan Bayh, a strong Clinton supporter who is seen as having appeal to white conservative Democrats, and some national security expertise. AFP

WHAT'S INSIDE

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SPORTS

Editor Tobbyric S. Melendres Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa
e-mail: pi_sports@inquirer.com.ph

■ **Radal** grabs gold; Russian women 1-2-3 /A26

HENRY Dagmil fails to hurdle his personal best in the men's long jump and bows out of competition.

Just 1 legal leap for RP bet Dagmil

By Ted S. Melendres
Sports Editor

BEIJING—HENRY DAGMIL made do with his first and only legal leap and modified out of the qualification round of the men's long jump Saturday night at the Beijing Olympic hosts.

Daging for his supporters to encourage him another attempt, the 30-year-old from South Cotabato failed on his next two jumps in the din of the packed Bird's Nest stadium and missed the semifinal grade that was shorter than his national record.

Dagmil needed the 7.38 meters, well off his personal best of 7.59m, and 24th overall in the 39-man, two-squad jumping formation.

The Czech Republic's Roman Novotny managed 7.59m and made it as the 12th and last semifinalist based on the qualifying round logged by Greece's Louis Tsatoumas with a leap of 8.27m.

Cuba's Ibrahim Camejo was second in 8.23 and Britain's Greg Rutherford third in 8.16.

Tsatoumas, Camejo and Rutherford all jumped early once to conserve their strength for Sunday's finals where world champion Irving Saladino of Panama, the ninth qualifier with an easy leap of 8.03, is expected to throw his weight around.

The United States-trained Dagmil was admittedly no creme created when he took off high on his first leap and crashed 16th overall.

But the urge to take it further than the first played havoc on his second jump and he fouled, just as he did after he powered down the runway on his third attempt.

"Yung second jump nagpunde ako pero nag-foul pa (The second jump would have been great but it was disallowed)," said Dagmil later. "Hindi ko na sana control ang speed sa third, nagpigil na. Sayang (I was to encourage I failed) sa control my speed in the third jump)."

The country's lone track bid-der in the cross-spikes Olympic sport said the experience of competing in front of 80,000 screaming spectators was too much to bear for almost everyone.

"Nerbiyos kami lahat (We all couldn't get into a rhythm)," said the United States-trained jumper. "Para kaming hinihatak pababa, dapat harambitan at mga hakbang ko dagsak ang isip (It was as if something was pulling us back, that's why majority of the competitors didn't jump well)."

Below-par results were across the board as no one really came close to the 8.95m world record set 17 years ago by American Mike Powell in Tokyo.

Dagmil's 7.38m effort was his worst in recent years and betrayed a serious training flaw in which the method of one of his two Filipino coaches, he said, couldn't jibe with the regimen laid down by his coach US coach, Chris Huffins of California State U.

"Training nahiwa (I'm not blaming anybody)," said Dagmil, still one of Asia's top jumpers. "Sa mga hakbin, dapibis na lahat, pero sa akin speed pa rin ang focus (The other jumpers already concentrate on rhythm, but I continue to focus on speed)."

Joseph Ip, Dagmil's coach here, said the presence of making a longer third jump proved too much for his ward in the shortened three-jump version.

All misses, except South Africa's Hennes Tabor A Al Saba who wound up 8th with a best of 8.03m, marked out of the qualifying round.

Al Saba's compatriot Mohammed Salman Al Khuwalidi, the Asian record holder with a personal best of 8.48m, managed 7.90 while China's Li Jianan garnered 7.70.

Apart from Tsatoumas, Camejo, Rutherford, Al Saba Novotny and Saladino, the other qualifiers were Zimbabwe's Ngonidzashe (8.14), Cuba's Wilfredo Martinez (8.07), Bulgaria's Nelso Kaba Dudji (8.07), Australia Mitchell's Rhenus Mokotow (8.14), Spain's Luis Felipe Melis (7.95) and Botswana's Gabriel Gaotlaketse (7.95).

World Championship runner-up Andrew Howe of Ireland failed to make the grade with 7.81.

OLYMPICS MEDAL CHART
NEW MILO
The Official Energy Drink of the Philippine Team to the 2008 Beijing Olympics

Rank	Country	G	S	B	T
1	China	31	15	12	58
2	USA	16	20	24	60
3	Britain	11	6	7	24
4	Germany	5	6	7	22
5	Australia	4	10	11	25
6	Japan	5	5	7	17
7	South Korea	7	5	4	16
8	Russia	6	10	10	26
9	Italy	5	5	5	15
10	Ukraine	3	3	9	14
11	France	4	9	12	25
12	Spain	3	3	1	7
13	Romania	3	1	3	7
14	Slovakia	3	1	0	4
15	Netherlands	2	4	4	10
15	Czech Rep.	2	3	0	5
17	Poland	2	2	1	5
18	Canada	2	1	4	7
19	North Korea	2	1	0	3
20	N. Zealand	2	1	2	5
21	Denmark	2	0	3	5
22	Switzerland	2	0	1	3
23	Belarus	2	0	1	3
24	Cuba	1	3	4	8
25	Zimbabwe	1	3	0	4
26	Azerbaijan	1	2	2	5
27	Norway	1	2	1	4
28	Finland	1	1	1	3
29	Bulgaria	1	1	1	3
30	Mongolia	1	1	0	2
31	Brazil	1	0	4	5
32	Indonesia	1	0	0	1
33	India	1	0	0	1
33	Thailand	1	0	0	1
33	Ethiopia	1	0	0	1
33	Jamaica	1	0	0	1
33	Tunisia	1	0	0	1
38	Hungary	0	4	1	5
39	Kazakhstan	0	3	4	7
40	Sweden	0	3	0	3
41	Greece	0	2	0	2
41	Turkey	0	2	1	3
43	Austria	0	1	2	3
43	Slovenia	0	1	2	3
45	Serbia	0	1	1	2
45	Kyrgyzstan	0	1	1	2
45	Colombia	0	1	1	2
45	Greece	0	1	1	2
45	Uzbekistan	0	1	1	2
45	Algeria	0	1	1	2
51	Vietnam	0	1	0	1
51	Chile	0	1	0	1
51	Kenya	0	1	0	1
51	Estonia	0	1	0	1
51	Ivo. and Bis.	0	1	0	1
51	Rwanda	0	1	0	1
57	Armenia	0	0	3	3
58	Taiwan	0	0	2	2
59	Croatia	0	0	1	1
59	Argentina	0	0	1	1
59	Togo	0	0	1	1
59	Mexico	0	0	1	1
59	Tajikistan	0	0	1	1
59	Egypt	0	0	1	1
59	Lithuania	0	0	1	1

Medals tally as of 8 p.m.

SUMMIT
REACH FOR IT!

Watching history unfold

By Ted S. Melendres

BEIJING—A TEARY-EYED HENRY Dagmil was pondering what might have been with sportswriters after wasting out of the men's long jump Saturday night when one of the lenses ceased him of his last remaining any good luck messages from the national athletics chief.

"Wala nga e, ang sinasabing sa coach ko (Joseph Ip) (Anyway, he only talked business with my coach)," said the 30-year-old long jumper from South Cotabato.

Bo Ying Kok, president of the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association (Patak), did not join the shimon of Dagmil and female long jumper Marestella Torres.

Dagmil's pre-Olympic training in the United States was made possible and by the Patafederal by the Philippine Olympic Committee through its president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco.

Everyone in the Philippine sportsmen at the Olympic Village, from administrative staffer Eleanor Navarro-Dela Peñuela chief of mission Rep. Monico Puentevella, dropped what ever they were doing Sunday morning to take in to the Olympic channel on Michael Phelps made history at the state-of-the-art Water Cube venue.

"My God, everyone was off their seats from beginning to end of Phelps' eight-gold medal swim," said Patak Joseph, head of the national swimming association. "They all watched history unfold."

You can't really criticize Dean Bell for misbroadcasting before he hit the tape and flattered his own 100-meter world record by a "mere" three hundredths (0.03) of a second Saturday night, as American CBS reporter was overheard chiding his colleagues.

Although Bell could have dropped at least 0.1 of a second off the world mark if he dipped back to his right, pumped his chest and shouted down with cold 12 meters to go, the 6-foot-5 Jamaican was just happy only trying to make sure he gets to break the record again in his next important competition.

"You see him easy? It was for him to break the record," the reporter said. "Next time, he'll get another record."

Molina gets to carry flag, after all

By Ted S. Melendres

BEIJING—SWIMMER MIGUEL MOLINA finally gets to carry the national flag when the country's contingent joins the closing ceremonies of the Games of the 29th Olympiad at the Bird's Nest main stadium here on Aug. 24.

Unceremoniously dispossessed of the honor by professional boxing hero Manny Pacquiao at the opening rites, the 24-year-old Molina will lead 10 of his teammates during the final march for the evening celebration.

"He (Molina) will carry the flag this time," said an official of the national committee who asked not to be named because they haven't told the athlete about it. "The choice of Pacquiao (for the opening ceremonies) was not ours to make."

The World Boxing Council lightweight champion was the only Filipino athlete to do the chore without ever competing in the Olympics. His selection, widely criticized by Olympic observers in Manila, was recommended by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Molina, the lone male athlete in last year's Southeast Asian Games in Thailand, smashed his own national record in the 200-meter individual medley at the Beijing Olympics.

He was part of the five-member swimming squad that rose four national marks and one pan-am three SEA Games standards.

MOLINA

The team also included Christel Simars, Jh Walsh, Daniel Coakley and Ryan Arabejo.

Trap shooter Eric Ang, female biker Hidilyn Diaz and archer Mark Javier represented Manila at the end of the respective events last week.

Boxer Rizzy Tabanao will clash out of the RP quarters at the Athletes Village on Monday.

Ang wound up at the bottom of the trap standings, Diaz finished 13th in a field of 11 in the -58 kg class, Javier lost in the first knockout round of the Pin-70 meters and Tabanao blew his first-round match against Ghana's Mustapa Plange.

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TWO Ming seals after China's victory over Germany in the Olympics.

Yao powers China past Germany, into q'finals

By Norah Trinidad

BEIJING—PUSHING BOTH ARMS UP hard, a handsome Yao Ming walked back to center court with his team on Saturday, paused, and declared he would never forget this moment.

He would? All his centripetal counterparts who watched, agonized and finally whooped it up with the China national team after it beat Germany, 39-93, to move into the eight-team Olympic basketball quarterfinals here.

Yao has steadily registers as the thorn by an Asian team in the Olympics since the fifth place finish by the Philippines in the inaugural basketball tournament during the 1936 Olympics in Hitler's Berlin.

The best Asian finish after that was the seventh place registered by another 80 team in the 1956 Olympics in Melbourne.

Needless to say Yao also returned into the loving arms of his countrymen who felt tremendously lifted after he typified a refusing to hold up to China's defeat against Spain last Tuesday.

On Saturday, China took the lead early on Yao's forearm bias, after falling behind at the end, 21-27, the hosts had to figure in a give struggle before securing the lead in the final minutes while the regular evening routines in this capital ground to a halt, countenances of stalled Manila mornings whenever Filipino boxing icon Manny Pacquiao would fight in Las Vegas.

A thundering drive to the basket by Dirk Nowitzki cut China's lead to only one point, 86-85, with 1:08 left in the game.

After Yao answered with a goal, Nowitzki pushed too hard on a drive, was slapped with a charging foul that sent Yeli Liangkun to score from the right side for the final score, 39-93, before time ran out on the suffering Germans.

Final one served late and, as though the Chinese had staked everything on their national basketball squad, there were numerous kitchen breakdowns in the restaurants and hotels along Tongxiang Lu for north of Beijing where this reporter is billeted during the China match, and obviously in most other establishments in the Chaoyang District downtown, the so-called Silicon area close to the Bird's Nest in this booming, dignified capital.

The USA, finally losing head from the preliminary pool-up another solid team defense to beat Spain, 119-80, in the other major game Saturday, and it remains the title favorite.

After losing to the USA and crushing against Spain, China regained composure of respect with a win over Angola. But China had to play tougher defense and make on Yao's solid interior game to stop the Nowitzki-led Germany that, achieving the mission of progressing to the next round whose games would definitely be doubly tougher for the hosts.

So far, only Lithuania and the USA have remained unbeaten as organizers seek to finalize the quarterfinals cast.

Games Monday pit China (2-2) against Greece (2-2), Australia (2-2) vs. unbeaten Lithuania, Croatia (2-2) vs. host (3-1), and Argentina (3-1) vs. Russia (3-2).

SPORTSWATCH

Ateneo remains clean in SBP

ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY-BEC 2008 Bandido Integrated School, 84-48, on Saturday to remain unscore boy with four straight wins in the Great Basketeers Philippines A category of the Mid-sponsored 18th Philippine basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

Ian Bandido's debut was his fourth for five games.

Don Bosco Technical School of Makati topped Holy Word Christian Academy, 87-22, for its second win in four games while dropping the rookie to 0-5, also in DBP-B.

Ivy Group B, Mapúa Malayan came 113-37 Don Bosco's 15 points in the second quarter to power the Dragons to a 49-12 shellacking of St. Mary's College. It was San Beda's second triumph in five matches, while St. Mary's sank to 1-4.

SBC, Arellano capers win

RACK TO BACK NCAA CHAMPION Bata Reds and Summer Cup titlist Arellano U downed their respective foes over the weekend to notch their second straight victory in the 6th Fr. Martin Division A Cup at the SP Canal Gym.

Powered by 6-foot-9 American Justin Daniel, San Beda trounced Polytechnic University of the Philippines, 88-72, while the Low Roger-mentored Chiefs mastered the Adamson Falcons, 72-48. In other play the best Daniel Blood he 16 points with six rebounds.

Ike Bastian-Lit rebounded TOP 88-87, in the other seniors match.

In juniors action, three-peat NCAA champion San Sebastian edged Adamson, 93-92, and Arellano humbled Letran 98-48.

WTJ Annual staglest today

MANILA (TS) (UNOFFICIAL) — The 2008 stag-fighting season with a big bang today by staging more than 100 fights in the First WTJ Annual 5- stag derby starting at 1 p.m.

Competitors include 2008 World Slasher Cup champion Kenny Yu, 2008 PCAP Division of the Year Champ Jake Diaz, PIA Evolution champion Patrick Bernardo, Philby Valencia, Renato Santos and Pao Moreno.

Stag derby specialists seeking action include Ricky Enriquez, Tody Palma, Edmund Viado, Jorge Fajardo, Rolly Campos, Albert Rene Aguilar, Boy Tuazon, Bobby Dominez, Roger Segovia-Lito and Edu de Plaza.

Tañamor another recycled victim

COMMENTARY

Norah Trinidad

BEIJING—BOXER HARRY TAÑAMOR, who flashed that clenching winner's smile upon figuring in the BF contingent's biggest debut here, did weep once inside the dugout, but obviously only upon realizing that he too had fallen victim to a blind, stupefied national amateur boxing system.

A loser in the Athens Olympics, the recycled Tañamor—like Ronnie Estoesta who had to retrain and lose in three straight Olympiads—was predictably a sitting duck against his Ukrainian foe who used the built-in edge of having become their style, weaknesses and capabilities of the lone Filipino boxing bet well ahead of their bout.

For the record, Tañamor had been physically claimed that he would be fighting strong in his second straight Olympics because he already knew his would-be opponents better.

Unfortunately, there was no assurance he would be fighting here any of the heroes he had met previously in other boxings tournaments.

It was therefore out of pure concern—both for Tañamor and the committee here, and its mention generous sponsors like Smart—that this reporter had begged for prayers for Tañamor in the run-up to his second straight bid to the Olympics.

The reason was simple: one click of the computer key and, voila, his foreign foe could readily avail of Tañamor's past fights.

If in no consideration, Tañamor's future foes would be provided solutions to the problems, the answers to the questions, well ahead of the big war.

Maybe that aspect can be told but, as a result, this reporter was lambasted by the head of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines (ABAP) who claimed that the request for prayers was one way of insulting and demeaning Tañamor.

As have would have it, Tañamor drew a fighter whom he had never fought before.

He was therefore completely in the dark as far as the Ukrainian fight fly-weight monster Shaqyn Plange was concerned.

"I know everything that Tañamor would do inside the ring, I know his basic strengths and weaknesses," Plange was later quoted by BSC chair Butch Ramirez as saying.

For the record, Manny Lopez, the Abar president, had offered no excuses.

He said they lost to a better boxer.

Lopez did sound very honest and sincere.

But it's not easy to believe his claim.

There's another side to the national boxing tragedy.

Here it is: Tañamor was not exactly dumb, shy and hopeless.

He has clearly fallen prey to a blind, incompetent, non-achieving system that has diametrically refused to go away.

Liga q'finals start today

GAMES TODAY (Ynares)
4 p.m.—Bataan (Pagalian)
vs. —Pagalian (G. 1)

THE BEST-OF-FIVE QUARTERFINALS OF the Smart-Liga Filipinas kick off Monday, staging rematch matches four of the eight Sun teams in the metropolitan's standalone semifinals.

In Tagaig, at the C.P. Trags gym, the Barong Global, behind Ney Javier, Bonnie Medina and Abraham Santos, take on the Iloilo Mang Inasals, while at the Pagalian City gym, the Explorers, featuring Mark Yee and Brian Dela, open their challenge with the Misamis Oriental Warriors.

Game time is set at 6 p.m. for both openers.

"The quarterfinals pit not only the eight best teams of Liga but also the eight best homestead supports," said Liga CEO Neil Tolo.

"Home court is also advantage of playing at home if they are to survive a short best-of-five series. I am sure the fans will enjoy the uniqueness and excitement of the homestead-away format which only Liga has."

The quarterfinals employ a 2-2-1 format, with the Cebu Nitros, Pampanga Builders, Pagadian and Taguig enjoying homestand advantage the qualifying round right by earning the most number of points at the end of the 15-leg, 7-week eliminations phase of the tournament hosted by Smart, Accel, Molten, Monafilone, Smart's spring, Burlington, and Laptop Exchange.

The Meteors, powered by Jerome Damaso and Dennis Cruzilla, led by Chito Jaime and Francis Barcellano, advanced to the playoffs by dispensing off the Bacon Brownhearts in the sudden-death phase, while the Mang Inasals, led by Chito Jaime and Francis Barcellano, booked a date in the Final Eight by beating Sach-to-Sach the Iloan Baguio Victory at the Dimasalang of Baguio gym, becoming the only team to get past a twice-to-beat opponents last week.

SCHEDULE AND RESULTS

SEMIFINALS
Aug. 16—Sta Filipinas women's cup semis

SEMIFINALS
Aug. '15
SHOOTING (Anyang Shooting Range)
DYC 1600—Final passing Timfire Dela in 10th place, men's individual final

Aug. 14
DEFENDING CHAMPIONS Sandra Daniel
JAMES WILSON—Final passing 15th in field of 41 men's 200 meter butterfly (1:48.32)
WOMEN'S FINALS (Anyang University of Arts—tennis and Archery)
JOSETTE CRUZ—Final placing 11th place, scores 80 kg, 45m and pass 45 kg men 100 kg, women's 100 kg class

Aug. 12
DEFENDING
MIGUEL MOLINA—Final placing 4th in a field of 32, 100 m final 2 men's 100m freestyle (2:54.24)

Aug. 13
DEFENDING
MIGUEL MOLINA—Final placing 3/4th in a field of 34, final 6 and 12 men's 200 M Dream
GABRIEL SIMON—Final placing 42nd in a field of 48, 4th in final 2, women's 100m freestyle

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MARK JOSEPH—Eliminated in 1:30 batch by Ken Champion (DR), 4:01.412

BOXING
(Anyang Athletics Stadium)
ARNEY ESPADERON—Eliminated in Round of 32 by Morgan Phiapi (SAM), 4-0

Aug. 14
DEFENDING
GABRIEL CHAMPION—Final placing 40th in a field of 52, male in final 8, men's 10m freestyle

Aug. 11
DIVING
SHAILA MAE PEREZ—Final placing 23rd in a field of 34, women's 3 meter springboard

SWIMMING
JAMES E. SIMON—Final placing 47th in a field of 80, fourth in final 9, women's 10m freestyle
RYAN ARABEJO—Final placing 28th in a field of 52, fourth in final 5, men's 1,500m freestyle

Aug. 13
ATHLETICS (Athletics Stadium)
JERRY DILEMA—Final placing 24th in a field of 38 (7 DNS), 10th of 10 in Group 6, men's long jump

8th Wack Wack President's Cup Friday

FORMER PRESIDENT FIDEL V. Ramos and Taiwanese legend Lu Liang Huan are among the VIPs competing in the eighth President's Cup, an annual major tournament coinciding with the birthday of the current president of the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club this Friday.

Web and Lu together with current president Luis K. Tan will be leading a heavy field of 400 members, sponsors and guests in the event that makes more than P1 million in prizes.

An array of luxury and gas-saving vehicles are up for grabs as hole-in-one prizes including a Toyota Vitz from Toyota Bellavista, a Chrysler 300C from Cars Masters, a Lancer ES2000 from Mitsukoshi Motors and Union Motors Corp. and a Hyundai Getz from multi-Hub Group. Club Car, Samsung, and Trans Eight cars, a Nara Melody massage chair from DSC. OMRON is also on offer as prizes for set-ins or designated holes.

LUIS TAN

The major backers are Philippine Airlines, TCM Corporation and Hungarian Tooling and Services Corporation, Asian Electronics Phils. and Sta. Elena Properties, Inc.

The other supporters are Asiatic Steel, Asia United Bank, Citi Private Bank, Eva Airways, Fujitsu Uniform, Visa, Asia Brewery, BMP Paribas, China Bank Mitkati, Chua Blue Services, Corp., Figaro 68 Corporate Center, First Bancorp Group, JGA Security Services, Legenday Marketing, Pepsi Cola, Smile Plastics, Schering Plough, Splash Corp., Sports Scene Phils., Sumaden, Transwise, Trojan Investing, United Laboratories, Wack Wack Express, Wednesday Group, Yakult Phils., Zone 6, Rotmar Tobacco, 168 Chili Chili, Gourmet Farms and The Plaza.

The club has scheduled two shotgun starts (7 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.) for members at the Blue course and sequential tee-time from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. for sponsors and guests at the Red course.

The 18-hole event serves as the club's official welcome for the new board headed by Tan and composed of Eddie Villareal, Tan Sho Ling, Tony Legarda, Simeon Lim, Virgilio Go, Leandro Chen, Tommy Tan and Mike Soon.

2 homers foil Manila title drive in softball

By Cedell P. Tayao

KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN—HAMILA WAS one out away from the Big League softball World Series title until Grand Rapids, Michigan used softball's most lethal weapon: the home run.

After two outs, Brian in Merchant tied the game in the bottom of the seventh inning with a two-run over the left field wall.

Then Liz Chappell hit another home run homer in the ninth as Michigan reloaded the Manila outfielders to score with a count from behind 2-1 win yesterday in the Finals of the Wednesday Pool in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

The Professional Finish was the best by any Philippine team that saw action in the World Series this year.

International Little League association of Manila missed out on a semifinal berth by one win in the Asian League baseball tournament in Taylor, Michigan, while its Junior League squad also failed to make the knockout stage in Bangsar, Malaysia.

Bacolod City returned up boards to the Senior League softball championship in Lower Bonanza, Independence, while its Little League softball team finished eighth in Portland, Oregon.

"We were unlucky," Manila councilor Ona Hervisores, president of the Manila Little League, who acted as delegation head, told the Inquirer in a telephone interview.

Manila pitcher Miss Javier Pangilinan yielded only four hits and the rest of the team committed just a single error.

Manila, where campaign was supported by the Philippine Sports Commission, also wielded a hot bat, batting nine hits, two each coming from Aaron Agoo and Pe. Bienvenida Custodio.

But they never got past one run when they loaded the bases in the fifth inning.

"I couldn't ask for more from the team," Hervisores said. "I know they would get this far because they prepared really hard for the tournament. They did everything to win."

Still, almost.

Merchant had two strikes against her when she smashed the equalizing home run off Doughman, 1-oh.

Manila was on top early from sealing the inning when Chappell blasted the game-winning homer in the ninth.

The pitch were actually clocked against the Manila outfielder, who pulled off a stunning 4-3 victory over Kalamazoo in the semis for the first Asia-Pacific team to reach the finals.

Grand Rapids went into the finals armed with a remarkable record in the tournament in return of the title in 2001 and 2006.

Meanwhile, Gustavo Ambardanes Archibal, which defeated Olivo, 7-1, in yesterday's match, bagged the Senior League Baseball World Series crown, after beating Hawaii, 5-2, in the finals.

Gustavo won the crown despite missing team manager Johannes Gregorio, who served a one-game suspension for fielding an ineligible relief pitcher in the crown's losing against Illoilo.

ALLAN Santos of Atlanta challenges Jalen Nicolas of Arizona in their UAAP game yesterday. KIMI ATIENZA

Eagles cruise to UAAP semis

By Jasmine W. Payo

SHOWING NO SIGNS OF SLOWING DOWN, Rabeh Al-Hussaini powered Ateneo past Adamson in a blowout 78-68 victory that secured the Blue Eagles of a semifinal berth in the 73rd UAAP men's basketball competition yesterday at the Philippine Arena.

Al-Hussaini took control early by effectively sealing the ball inside to score 14 of Ateneo's 22 points in the opening quarter of the game when the Eagles led all the way.

Ateneo coach Norman Black stressed that there's no letting up for his wards even after the Eagles—who entered the fray with a 9-1 record—secured their fifth straight Final Four appearance.

"I'm happy being in the Final Four but our goal is to make it to the top two," said Black.

The 6-foot-8 Al-Hussaini hauled 20 points just three days after erasing 26 in the Eagles' 69-76 win over the hosts Fatima Tigers.

Al-Hussaini converted on 10-of-14 attempts from the field to lead the Eagles in setting a season-high 51-9 power shooting clip.

In the second game, the Ateneo University kept its own semifinal bid on track by stunning the UST Tigers with a 74-69 overtime victory after trailing by as many as 16 points.

Red Cervantes nailed six of his 20 points in the extra period after Benedict Bermudez, who added 14 markers, sparked the Tamaraws' comeback from a 10-11 hole.

"The team has a big heart," said coach Glenn Capacete of the Tamaraws, who kept third place with a 7-2 slate.

Even with Jerry Cruz scoring a career-high 30 points, the Tigers made only two of 16 attempts from the field in the fourth and five-of-six points.

An Aldrech Ramos layup with 47.1 seconds left in the fourth period tied the game at 60.

Dylan Ababou could have given the Tigers the win, but missed two free throws with 32.2 ticks left in regulation.

The loss pushed the Tigers down to 4-6, two games behind University of the East.

The Eagles weren't a season-high 20 points underachievers, several courtesy of Eric Salamat, who chipped in 17 points and six steals.

Al-Hussaini's performances made up for the run-a-point output of top gunner Chris Tiu, who was held scoreless from the field.

The Falcons dropped out of the Final Four race with a 2-6 slate along with University of the Philippines and National University.

The Eagles have won 23 straight games over the Falcons since 1997.

The scores:

Ateneo 78...

UST 69...

ATENEO (78)—Al-Hussaini 20, Salamat 17, Tiongson 8, Ramos 6, Ildefonso 5, Cruz 5, Lamagna 5, Oraa 2, Rosario 2, Tiu 2, Javier 0, Ballesteros 0.

ADAMSON (69)—Celzo 12, Ababou 11, Ramos 10, Sumagaysay 7, Alvarez 5, Aquino 4, Gonzalez 4, Santos 3, Sandoval 2, Bonleon 2, Lucero 0, Alabanza 0, Dalisay 0, Bangalan 0.

Quarters: 22-18, 39-35, 54-42, 78-68

Second Game

ATENEO (74)—Cervantes 20, Bermudez 14, Gonzalez 12, Serrano 9, Ramos 8, Bernabe 5, Galinato 3, Tenorio 1, Abueva 0, Galapon 0.

UST (69)—Cruz 30, Ababou 11, Oraa 10, Mendoza 6, Cabahug 5, Ferrer 4, Tamayo 1, Alas 1, Bautista 0, Fajardo 0, Jones 0.

Quarters: 17-27, 33-38, 47-49, 60-60 (reg), 74-69 (OT)

NBL gets support from players

THE SOCIETY BELIEVES THE National Billiards League (NBL) has received an overwhelming support from the local pool community, particularly the players who are all excited to know what they call "the new era of Philippine billiards."

"We're all very happy with this development as we know that having this professional league will really lift (Philippine) billiards to new heights, and this will be the start of a new era of Philippine billiards," said former world champion Alex Pagulayan.

After finding a television partner in Solar Sports that will broadcast the games for the league's inaugural season, NBL's main proponent Jose Ildefonso Antonio "Pudoli" Payot and fellow manager Percy Mariano and Jonathan Sy are now negotiating with companies to fund the league.

Last November, they met with the players from the Billiards Managers and Owners Association of the Philippines (BAMAP) to invite them to join the league. They also introduced newly appointed NBL commissioner businessman Martin Misa.

"We're formally inviting you to join the NBL as players. It's been a long time, a very long time coming [sic] really," said Payot during the gathering attended by the country's top cue artists led by Efren "Bata" Reyes.

"NBL will be exclusive for you. Bal-

ing members, who chose how with us in our crusade to put our sport in the right direction," added Dupaya.

The NBL is slated to start into the year with eight teams to be fed.

Meanwhile, the players present in the meeting reiterated their stand not to join any event that has anything to do with Mr. "Mr. Makabenta" and his Peso Sports, including the planned World 10-Ball Championship, until all the issues that caused them to break away from the group affiliated with him are resolved.

Former world titlist Bernie Alcuas, Roberto Gomez, Efrenio Ramos, Rodolfo Luat and Anna Bustamante also attended the meeting.

Nolte tops Pichay Sr. Memorial chess

Final standings:
7 points—F. Bello, R. Bolanio, P. Eby, R. Paragua; **6.5**—R. Abat, E. Jagdon, E. Rubio, J. Dela, S.—5 Lopez, R. Pelea, J. Bolanio, M. Rosa, T. Lorenzo

CASTILLEJOS, ZAMBALES—INTERNATIONAL Master Rolando Nolte fired up to his top billing by ending the fifth Hospicio Pichay Sr. Memorial chess tournament at the Subpic Bay Resort Beach Hotel College here Saturday.

Nolte, the highest-rated player here with an Elo of 2022, dumped Nestor Hasad Sese in the eighth round and drew with Grandmaster Mark Paragua in the ninth and final round to cap his campaign in the four-day tournament organized by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines.

Nolte actually finished in a four-way tie for first place with 2200 Rogelio Antonio Jr., NM Buggie Oliv and Paragua with similar scores of seven points out of a possible nine.

Nolte clinched the title by virtue of higher tiebreak score over Antonio, Oliv and Paragua, respectively.

The four players, however, split the combined cash prize for the top four places and pocketed P50,000 each.

Antonio halved the point with Oliv in the eighth round and then swamped NM Mitchell Mago in the ninth round to join the "co-champs" circle.

Oliv followed up his draw with the team by downing Ay Balicoda, while Paragua crushed reigning titlist Rd Barbo Nolasco in the eighth round before drawing with Nolte in the final round.

Nolasco and Balicoda dropped into another four-way tie for fifth to eighth.

Pacman sticks to 60-40 split vs De La Hoya

By Marc Anthony Reyes

FREDDIE ROACH DID HAVE HARSH but corrections that Manny Pacquiao would readily oblige, but this time the world's best pound-for-pound boxer is not about to carry out his orders to take the money and run.

PACQUIAO

Breaking his silence over the weeks-old argument with the camp of legend Oscar De La Hoya, Pacquiao said in his newspaper column that he cannot accept the 75-25 split of the HBO pay-per-view

buys as it's like "it's time to take them" losing the world's most exciting fighter in the end.

"Eh, De La Hoya, however, has shown little interest by offering me a percentage that only an up-and-coming fighting right is deserved," Pacquiao said.

"If he really wants the fight, then he should at least, of the very least offer me what I truly deserve, a fair share of the pie. He should understand that we are both superstars in the game and in any sense none will sell everything and we stand to break all existing records in the sport, even the one that he established with Floyd Mayweather Jr."

Last year's De La Hoya-Mayweather fight reportedly sold 2.4 million buys and reaped Mayweather $22 million on a similar 75-25 split, considering Roach said it "is great payday" for a fight that would only make Pacquiao an even bigger name in the sport.

In a separate interview by Manila-area reporters, Roach said among his concerns is Pacquiao "I just want to fight him, then he understand what's on the table." And is the compromise between fighting Oscar and (junior lightweight Humberto) Soto worth the risk?

Roach said: "Because Pacquiao, least would get at least 2 million PPV buys.

Lacson rules Naga Nat'l Milo Marathon leg

NAGA CITY—VETERAN RAMIL LACSON turned his new fellow broadcasting work to win the Naga leg of the 32nd National Milo Marathon that started and ended at Plaza Quezon.

Running double late, Lacson stayed with Rolando Dumayne and Abraham Barcenas early in the race, then forged away from his rivals after Mt. Isarog to win the race in 1:14:38.

"I dialed up the strength of my stable before breaking free," said the 33-year-old native of Naga City.

Lacson, who won P10,000 plus glass trophy, earned a trip to the grand finals in Iloc. 30 with Rolando Pinsoncito and Ernie Bayong, who came in second and third, respectively, in 1:17:46 and 1:20:08.

"I could have done better if somebody chased me," said Lacson, whose best time was 1:11 he recorded in 2008 in Iloilo City.

Pinsoncito, from Davao City, received P6,000 while Bayong pocketed P4,000.

"I have three more months to prepare, I'll do my best to do well," said Lacson, whose last finished was fifth overall in Rolando Pinsoncito in 2004.

Bayong, winner of the Tarlac leg in 2006-07 and veteran of the 2007 edition, stopped midway of the race, enabling Lacson to surge away with the top honors.

Frejelyn Barcales, a 19-year-old daughter of a truck driver from Bulan, Sorsogon, dusted Rosser with Lacson by tearing the crowd after by 5:46:37.

Rosecher Ile filled may ahead of runner-up Amelen Arrilla, who clocked 1:41:48. Elizabeth Rosero came in third in 1:50:37.

Close to 6,000 runners answered the 6 a.m. starting gun fired by Vice Mayor Gabby Bordado assisted by Milo figures Bernard Guevarra and Rose Mesa. The staging of the final leg in Bicol region was in coordination with Naga City Sports Council chair Shalee Lee.

RAMIL Lacson and Frejelyn Barcales take their trophies after winning the men's and women's titles of the Naga City leg of the 32nd National Milo Marathon. With them are Milo Sports Executive Andrew Ibet, Vice Mayor Gabby Bordado, councilor Nathan A. Sergio and Nestle's Richmond Pagco.

Olympics not just about Phelps

BEIJING—MICHAEL PHELPS no longer begins Monday at the Beijing Olympics.

The 23-year-old Phelps completed his stunning run of eight gold medals, breaking Mark Spitz's previous mark of seven from the 1972 Munich Games, when the American won the 4x100-meter medley relay in a world record time.

Now it's on to Week No. 2, where Monday's lineup of 18 gold medals in athletics, diving and sailing, among others, should keep the Olympic faithful occupied for the final days of the 29th edition of the Summer Games.

By the time the Olympics end next Sunday, 302 gold medals will have been presented over 16 days of competition in 28 sports at 37 competition venues—31 in Beijing, five in other mainland Chinese cities, and, due to quarantine restrictions in China, Hong Kong for equestrian events.

The women's triathlon kicks off Monday's competition, with Vanessa Fernandes of Portugal and three-time world champion Emma Snowsill of Australia the big favorites over the 1.5-kilometer swim, 40-kilometer bike leg and 10-kilometer run.

Fernandes finished eighth at the 2004 Athens triathlon and won the 2007 Beijing World Cup over Monday's identical course. But she's had several poor recent showings, including a 18th place finish in the world championships that year.

"This time I see more relaxed and more grown up," the 22-year-old Fernandes said. "Four years have passed. I have seen something. I have learned to control myself to every race."

At the Bird's Nest, the men's 400 hurdles and women's 400 will highlight athletics action along with the men's 5,000 steeplechase and long jump, and women's discus and pole vault.

Chinese springboard specialist Hu Chong will dive for his first Olympic medal in the 3-meter springboard Monday at the National Aquatic Center, more commonly known as the Water Cube.

He usually tries one of the more difficult dives in the business, with a degree of difficulty of 3.8 out of 4. It's officially known as the 5152B—a forward 2½ somersault with three twists in the pike position.

China has seen this event as the previous three Olympics, and its and teammate Ju Ken, the world champion in the 3-meter springboard, will do their best to ensure it's four in a row.

Alexander Despatie of Canada, who won silver in the event in Athens in 2004, fractured his right foot during a training session in April and will be hard-pressed to get on the podium.

"My foot reacted well to all the rehab plans that I had," said Despatie, who is opposing in his third Olympics but has missed most World Cup events since February.

"Mentally I know that my preparation has been quite different compared with the rest of the guys," Despatie said. "I want to prove to myself that I can overcome all those bumps and all those challenges and try to rival this season on a good note."

In Qingdao, 400 kilometers southeast of the capital, men's and women's sailing finals will be held in the 470 class.

The women's points race in track cycling, in which Marianne Vos of the Netherlands is favored, will be held, along with the men's team pursuit, in which Britain and Australia are expected to vie for gold.

The team show jumping finals are scheduled in equestrian, while the 3-and three apparatus events will be held in gymnastics. AP

Hong Kong horses living in luxury

HONG KONG—WHILE MANY OF Hong Kong's seven million people live in tiny noncentralized apartments in one of the world's most densely populated cities, the 216 Olympic horses have been enjoying lavish luxury.

No expense has been spared to ensure the elite horses competing in the Games are as comfortable, happy and safe as possible.

The Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC), which has a monopoly on equestrian activities in this racing mad city, spent about $150 million on facilities for the Olympic equestrian events.

They are being held in Hong Kong, more than 1,200 miles (1,900 kilometers) from Beijing, because China could not guarantee a disease-free environment for the horses, some of which are worth millions of dollars.

What the HKJC proudly calls "luxurious stables" feature air-conditioning, automatic water dispensers, padded floors and walls to prevent injury, play rooms, and special systems to prevent the hot summer air from getting in.

Outside these homes are four cooling areas with misted spray as the mist of water chilled to six degrees Celsius (43 degrees Fahrenheit), in case the horses get too hot. AFP

Exec says dope-positive hurdler 'killed' Greece

BEIJING—OLYMPIC CHAMPION HURdler Susi Hallia has dragged Greece's reputation through the mud by failing a drugs test and being sent home, Greek Olympic Committee chief Minos Kyriakou said on Sunday.

Hallia tested positive for methylhexaneamine, better known as MI, a banned steroid. She has denied any wrongdoing.

She was hailed as the new hero in Greek athletics after winning gold in 2004 in Athens in the women's 400 meters hurdles, but has scarcely run since.

"It would be best if she had just stayed at home instead of dragging our country's name through the mud," an angry Kyriakou told Reuters in an interview.

"If you want to commit suicide it is up to you but you do not have the right to kill your country. It is so sad the Athens Games golden girl was caught doping."

Greece have lost a total of 18 athletes, including 11 weightlifters, sprinters, a rower and a swimmer due to positive drugs tests in the run-up to the Games, after Kyriakou beefed up pre-Games testing to lose controls for every Olympic team member.

Greece was eager to avoid another embarrassment similar to the Athens Games doping scandal in which relying two top sprinters who withdrew after making in-legs tests.

"I will not back down, never. We caught 19 (Australian Hallia) and that is 19 fewer cheats," he said. "We don't want dirty medals and if we cannot have clean medals then we will just play sports for fun." "I do not consider this a defeat. This is a victory in our fight against doping," he said. "Yesterday the rest came out and today the rest have anymore. She is out of the village and can have way home."

Hallia was taken out of the athletes' village and sent home hours after the drugs test result became known, she had turned negative before boarding a flight to Japan for pre-Games training and Kyriakou said she probably took the drugs there.

He said the HOC (Greek Olympic Committee) would continue its anti-doping drive in line with the International Olympic Committee but urged federations to do more.

"We will increase our efforts and such athletes caught is a victory for the anti-doping system," he said. "But the HOC cannot interfere, athletes who get busted. It cannot run federations and coaches." Asked whether there was systematic doping in Greece, because of the spate of positive tests, Kyriakou said there was no proof.

"We can suspect a lot of things but without proof we cannot accuse anybody," he said.

Hallia told Greek reporters in Beijing she was shocked, adding: "I cannot accept that there may be sick minds out there who would sabotage us. I will give all nutritional supplements, my vitamins, for testing."

Kyriakou rejected Hallia's excuse.

"I don't believe they put something in her drink or vitamins. They always have the same excuse," he said.

"But in my opinion it is not only the athletes that should be punished. Every drugs offender, whether coach, official or athlete must be prosecuted, punished and taken out of the sports system for life." Reuters

FAN Hallia

Four-man Afghanistan hopes jins will hit gold

BEIJING—AFGHANISTAN'S CAMERO-strapped taekwondo team presents the only hope of bringing home the country's first Olympic medal.

Rohullh Nikpai and Sonar Ahmad Behrave make up half of the Afghan delegation, the other half being two 100-meter sprinters who have never competed in a proper running track to their home country.

"They have qualified here on their own terms. We did not need a wild card to compete," team head Ghulam Rahim said of the taekwondo team who boast a world silver medallist in 23-year-old Behrave.

A former national taekwondo athlete and president of the country's taekwondo federation, Rahimi came back to Afghanistan in 2002, after fleeing Taliban rule to live in Iran in the 1990s.

"Three years were terrible. Every day has bad news," said Rahimi.

Afghanistan has been torn apart by nearly 30 years of war, leaving an already impoverished nation low—one of the very poorest in the world. Life expectancy at birth is just 44 and nearly one in five children die before their fifth birthday.

The Taliban used the main sports stadium in Kabul, a modest concrete structure, to execute murderers in public, amputate the limbs of thieves and lash adulterers.

The Olympic team all know people who have been killed or had limbs blown off.

The teams, whose sites have been funded by the International Olympic Committee, boasts a former coach and a coalition of breaking the country's medal duck. Reuters

WINNERS, LOSERS (L-R) Britain's Paula Radcliffe (right) is comforted by compatriot Liz Yelling after placing 22nd in women's marathon; Brazil's Cesar Cielo Filho, men's 50-m freestyle gold medalist, wins as his country's national anthem is played; US swimmer Dara Torres is not too happy with her silver medal in the women's 50m freestyle.

Lightning-fast Bolt rips mark

BEIJING—USAIN BOLT CAPPED HIS stunning rise to stardom with an Olympic title Saturday and, without even really trying, set a world record in the 100 meters.

With world champion Tyson Gay out in the semifinals, the 21-year-old Jamaican seemingly only had Asafa Powell to beat, but others he trashed second and realized he was all clear with 30 meters to go, he coasted and still set a world record of 9.68 seconds.

Still behind, Richard Thompson of Trinidad and Tobago took the silver medal in 9.89, and Walter Dix of the United States was third in 9.91.

Powell again crumbled under the pressure of a big competition and finished fifth.

"Usain was spectacular," Powell said. "He was definitely unbeatable."

If athletics was looking for a defining moment to get the sport back on track after years of doping scandals, this was it. And the yellow record of 9.69 set at the IAAF's best ever race a huge chest, realizing it had seen something historic unfold the Olympic Games.

With a third of the race to go, Bolt had the luxury to look right, realize he was in a class all his own, counterstick his arms, and pound his chest as he crossed the line, slicing .03 off the record he set earlier this season.

Why didn't he try to do faster?

"I didn't come here to run the world record, because I was the world record holder. I came here to win," Bolt said.

He did it with one of his shoes untied. When Bolt crossed the finish line, pounding his chest with one arm and swagging for the cameras, his left shoelace was flapping.

Afterward, he became the happiest of showmen with the biggest of grins, his canary yellow shirt disappearing in a sea of friends while bigger music blared.

His jaw-competitors awoke. "Woke up at 11. Had some lunch, some nuggets," he shrugged. "Watched some more TV. Went to my room, slept for three hours. Went back, got some more nuggets, then came to the track."

What was supposed to be a chess-away battle for medals turned into a one-man show in less races in two days, not since did he push himself to the limit, yet produced the most stunning series of races.

All for a guy who was hardly known outside his Caribbean nation at the start of the season. And to think his coach doubted what he's let him run the 300-200 double up to a few weeks ago.

Instead, Bolt produced one of the most epic races in track history. Few others even come close to comparing.

Perhaps Michael Johnson setting the world record of 19.32 at the Atlanta Games, a dominating performance as stunning it was tough to get silver medalist Frankie Fredericks on the same photo as the finish.

Surely that record will now come under threat when Bolt lines up in his favorite event next week.

And Bolt can make it even better. He is the overwhelming favorite for the 200, and with Powell as a teammate is made to some a favorite to beat the Americans at their game—the 4x100 relay—next weekend. AP

Tomescu, 38, is Olympic marathon's oldest champ

TOMESCU

BEIJING—MARATHON RUNNER LIDIA Simon, usually inspires with age and Romania's new Olympic champion Constantina Tomescu proved the point on Sunday.

The 38-year-old became the oldest Olympic women's marathon winner by eight years and, before her age worked in her advantage.

"The experience of age helped me," she told reporters. "I have saved a lot before. I know a lot about racing."

Her age may also have also lulled the field into thinking she was not a serious contender and the pack let the Colorado-based runner go when she jumped ahead midway through the race and built a decisive 99-second lead.

"I said (to myself,) what happened, why are they not coming?" Tomescu said. "Maybe they thought I wouldn't finish in the top three."

Kenyan silver medallist Catherine Ndereba and China's bronze medallist Chunxiu Zhou never stood a chance of catching her and could only battle for the minor places.

"I kept looking back today because I didn't want to lose a medal but I couldn't believe (what I saw)," she said. Reuters

China's Liu starts painful title defense

BEIJING—CHINESE HURDLER LIU XIANG is suffering pain from an inflamed Achilles tendon as he prepares to defend his Olympic title, according to a report posted on his official website Monday.

Liu, 25, has been training in seclusion for weeks amid questions as to whether he'll be fit for the 110-meter hurdles final, one of the Games' most highly anticipated events.

Liu has competed rarely this year and in June saw his world record fall to Cuba's Dayron Robles. Reports of Liu's sore Achilles tendon have reportedly alarmed top Chinese media and sports officials, who are counting on the hurdler to bring home China's sole athletics gold medal.

Liu's longtime coach Sun Haiping says he's not worried about Liu performing in Monday's heats, but needs him to be fully fit by Thursday's finals showdown against Robles and a strong field of Americans. AP

LIU Xiang has stunned media interviews while he prepares for the Games.

SPORTS

Teammates boost Phelps' run

BEIJING—Aarons, Aaron Peirsol and Michael Phelps celebrate after topping the men's 4x 100-meter medley relay. —AP

BEIJING—LOOMING IN THE IMPOsing shadow of Michael Phelps are his teammates, 16 swimmers without whom only in the relays the American wouldn't have won an historic eight Olympic gold medals.

Phelps especially needed Jason Lezak, who swam clutch another legs on both the 400-meter freestyle and 400 medley relays.

At 32, the old man of the US men's team out-touched Alain Bernard of France at the wall in the first of three relays to preserve Phelps' run at tying Jesse Owens' track-and-field record of four gold medals.

Lezak was called on again Sunday morning, with gold No. 8 on the line. If the Americans could finish off a relay sweep, Phelps gave Lezak the lead for the final two laps, and Lezak powered home in the second-fastest 100 split of the race.

"I was thinking out in blow the lead," he said. "I was really nervous. I wanted to take it out strong and come home as strong as I could."

Aaron Peirsol, the 100 backstroke champion in Beijing, led off and had the US in first. Brendan Hansen, going against double breaststroke gold medalist Kosuke Kitajima of Japan, made it interesting, as the US fell behind Japan and Australia on his leg.

But Phelps picked him up, going 1:54 seconds faster than anyone else on his split to get the US back in first. That set up Lezak to take on 100 free silver medalist Eamon Sullivan of Australia. He got within a half-body length of Lezak, who then put a goal-ie-ending on Phelps' swimming comparisons.

"Certainly, it would have been something if we didn't do it," Peirsol said. "But it's not like we were going pressure to swim for Mike. We wanted to do this not just for Mike, but for ourselves."

Phelps only compares in the finals, so he relied on his teammates to swim strongly enough in the preliminaries to qualify and secure a spot in crucial lane 4. No false starts, no illegal strokes on his split to get the US back in first. That set up Lezak to take on 100 free silver medalist Eamon Sullivan of Australia. He got within a half-body length of Lezak, who then put a goal-ie-ending on Phelps' swimming comparisons.

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Play-come through Saturday: Matt Cavenes, Mark Kanybell, Ian Crocker, Garrett Weber-Gale, Cullen Jones, Nathan Adrian, Ben Wildman-Tobriner, Ryan Lochte, Ricky Berens, Peter Vanderkaay, David Walters, Erik Vendt and Klete Keller are leaving Beijing with gold medals, knowing they played a role in Phelps' epic feat.

For such an individual sport, we really know how to get together for those relays," Peirsol said.

"Some of the greatest memories from career like this are the times spent with teammates," Phelps said. "Being part of Team USA and the Olympic team is one of the greatest memories I will take from this." —AP

Nadal grabs gold medal; Russian women 1-2-3

BEIJING—RAFAEL NADAL POWERED Olympic men's singles gold medal Sunday, overcoming two set points to win the second set and holding every service game to beat Fernando Gonzalez of Chile, 6-3, 7-6 (2), 6-3.

The gold medal was the first ever for Spain in Olympic tennis.

Nadal was already assured of taking over the No. 1 ranking Monday for the first time, ending Roger Federer's reign after 4 1/2 years. Nadal has won 46 of his past 49 matches, including five victories over Federer in the finals at the French Open and Wimbledon.

Federer and partner Stanislas Wawrinka clinched the men's doubles gold when they beat Sweden Simon Aspelin and Thomas Johansson, 6-3 6-4 6-7 6-3, late Saturday.

"In singles you're all alone on the court. You win, you sit down. This is quite a surreal moment. It's a joy thinking this victory with somebody else who I like very much, who we had a great two weeks with. It's quite different to anything I've ever gone through," said Nadal, who carried the Swiss flag anyone after a similar chore in Athens in 2004.

Elena Dementieva earned the gold in women's singles, taking advantage of 17 double faults by fellow Russian Svetlana Kuznetsova in a 6-3, 7-5, 6-3.

In women's doubles, Venus and Serena Williams of the United States won the gold, beating Anabel Medina Garrigues and Virginia Ruano Pascual of Spain, 6-2, 6-0. The unseeded sisters, who entered with the No. 5

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Gov't hikes tax subsidy for NFA to ₱32B

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- **Gov't seen missing** 2008 'palay,' corn output targets /B5

Financial assistance needed to ensure enough rice supply

By Michelle V. Rarra

THE GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED TO INCREASE TO P32 BILLION the amount of tax subsidy for the National Food Authority this year, making sure the state-owned firm will have enough financial muscle to import rice and meet demand until December.

Under the original tax subsidy program for the year, the government was only supposed to give P7.3 billion worth of tax subsidy to the NFA. But the surge in the price of rice in the world market and increased local demand forced the NFA to exceed the allocation.

Every year, the national government allocates a budget for the tax expenditure fund (TEF), from which tax subsidies is released

CONTINUED ON B2

Sy buys 60% of Nat'l University

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lavaro

THE FAMILY OF MALL MAGNATE HENRY Sy has privately acquired 60 percent of National University (NU), one of the country's oldest universities, as it aims to uplift the quality of education in the country.

SM Investments Corp. president Henry Sy said the entry was brought sometime during the second quarter this year from the Marcos family, the founders of the school.

"[Good education] has always been a vision of [Eding (Henry) Sy, his father]. [NU] is a good name and a good school, he saw things would be NU [save], NU [educate]," said Sy of the 100-year-old university.

He said the Sy family would start con-

BY BOTH B2

(See more market reports on Page B2)

PLDT sme nation Count on me, partner.

Page 01

All That's Brewing

Coffee shops put PLDT myDSL Biz into the mix

The coffee shop has really been the spawning ground of twin revolutions. The first was the revolution in branding. Marrying the customer's dreams, aspirations and even fantasies to the smell of dark roasted coffee, the tactile pleasure of real leather chairs, the dark, warm tones on the walls, and a poignant nostalgic soundtrack meant profit and market share.

The second dramatic change came in the form of telecommuting, that is, the growing practice and policy of business people working out of the office and in "third places" which are, inevitably, coffee shops. A recent global study of more than a thousand professionals in 71 countries pointed out that "9% of these tele-telecommuters as either equal or even more productive than conventional employees.

Coffee, Tea, and WiFi

And so, this couldn't be a better time for coffee shop owners to cash in on the revolutions. There are dozens of coffee shops nationwide that offer free WiFi connection. However, more and more customers are looking at WiFi as a product differentiator, another integral part of the experiential mix – one that is growing in importance everyday.

One may walk into any random coffee shop and see a wide array of people taking advantage of the comfortable atmosphere. Ranging from students using the comfortable chairs to settle in for a long study-session to businessmen holding meetings right there in the middle of the cafe, the coffee-shop has become an ideal place for all sorts of productivity. The combination of comfortable seats, easily-available refreshments and the quiet ambiance characteristic of most coffee-shops would have made this a popular trend in any case.

But it is the transformation of coffee-shops into WiFi hotspots that makes the combination into a killer app.

Two examples of coffee-shops that have already embraced this new technology include the local powerhouses Bo's Coffee and Figaro. Having arranged to partner with PLDT and their MyDSLBiz, their customers now enjoy the innumerable advantages of Internet-on-the-go. They can have all the functionality of a virtual office with all the comforts of the coffee-shop.

Simply put, WiFi enabled cafes are better cafes. This is because more people telecommute or are online for any number of reasons. WiFi, combined with the heady lounge atmosphere, transforms the coffee shop into the ultimate virtual office. All the technology necessary to equip your coffee shop into a favourite connected "third place" is achieved with a simple hook up to PLDT MyDSLBiz.

Coffee shops, restaurants, hotels and resorts can become hotspots in every nook of the road. PLDT MyDSLBiz packages start from SmallBiz, its CIR of 128 kbps and burst of up to 3.5 Mbps). Owners of centre have the option of making WiFi free for their customers or rendering a new revenue stream by charging them for usage. And it doesn't take much – no long, difficult hours of setting up network architecture, or large expenditures of capital in order to make it possible. Plans for a complete WiFi billable service can go for as low as 1980 pesos a month. To further sweeten the deal, PLDT is offering up to five free PCs in every new subscriber – further defraying the difficulty of setting up as a WiFi hotspot.

There hasn't been a more tangible product differentiator for coffee shops and the hospitality industry than PLDT MyDSLBiz in recent memory. Beyond making more customers step through your door, it will make them stay more, buy more, if only to experience more. It's absolutely essential to keep them coming back.

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DBP seeks ₱10-B loan for RP 'green' projects

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE STATE-OWNED DEVELOPMENT Bank of the Philippines plans to avail itself of a P10.2-billion loan from Japan Bank for International Cooperation for extending to "green" projects across the country.

Banking sources said proceeds from the funds, which will be part of the 27th yen loan package from Japan, would be channeled to eligible sub-borrowers to finance environment-related projects, including those that generate clean energy or conserve. Specifically, the funds will support industries' pollution control as well as new and renewable energy projects.

The DBP is now seeking approval from the BSP's policy-making Monetary Board for the foreign loan, which is equivalent to 24.8 billion yen. The central bank is considered the offloading of as much as ₱7.65 billion worth of debt notes that will qualify as Tier 2 to supplement its capital.

DBP will offer Lower Tier 2 notes or subordinated notes with a maturity of 10 years and subject to optional redemption by the issuer after five years.

Deutsche Bank, First Metro Investment Corp. and HSBC are arranging DBP's offering.

The issuance allows DBP to strengthen its capital base while providing investors with an attractive alternative to deposit products and other debt securities. The notes, which are unsecured, will be set at P500,000 with increments of P100,000 thereafter.

The proceeds are expected to beef up DBP's capital adequacy ratio by 2.3 percentage points from about 20 percent at present.

27th yen loan package

by law to assess all public sector borrowings as well as foreign loans of the private sector whose repayment will come from the local banking system.

A loan repayment with JBIC here, pegged to be finalized in two months, DBP sources said.

On the other hand, the DBP has finalized with JBIC another P10-billion loan for "clean mechanisms development" projects which will likewise support new and renewable energy projects. The agreement on this loan, which was earlier approved by the BSP, will be signed in the next few days.

Meanwhile, banking sources said DBP would begin this week

Investment reversals: Good and bad

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENT to watch in our economy's GDP performance in recent periods is investment, a.k.a. capital formation. It is the issue that our prime foreign observers most concerned about our economy, especially the international financial institutions like the World Bank, the IMF and the Asian Development Bank (ADB). One can say that the sustainability of an economy's growth and whatever development gains that come with it hinges on its ability to put in place the capacity for greater production in the future—which is what investment is all about.

Dismal comparison

Our problem is that we had suffered an investment drought there at least 2002. A series of ADB comparisons done across our Asian neighbors shows this glaring and alarming fact: Total investment (covering both domestic and foreign, and both private and government investments) had progressed in all in the Philippines in 2002-2006, with annual investment growth averaging just 0.9 percent. In contrast, total investment grew annually by an average of 3.1 percent in Singapore, 4.2 percent in Malaysia, 5.2 percent in Indonesia, 7.5 percent in Thailand, 11.1 in Vietnam, 14.3 in Brunei, 10.1 in Cambodia, and 10.7 percent in Myanmar (comparable data for Laos were not available from the ADB website).

While our neighbors had been steadily putting in place the capacity for accelerated production growth in the years ahead, we seemed to be settling ourselves up to be bypassed everyone else, possibly returning to being the "sick man of Asia," all over again. We had not only lagged behind most of our neighbors in attracting foreign investors (direct investment [FDI], we had also lagged behind in attracting investments from our own domestic business community and the explanation is a no-brainer, what with all the things going on around us in recent years, all adding up to difficulty in inspiring confidence in our economy's prospects.

A good reversal

Notice that I used the word "had" (e.g., "had lagged behind") rather than "have" to the discussion above, denoting past tense as in days-see before, but never as more? Let's examine things more closely now.

Against the above backdrop, it was genuinely good news when our GDP/GNP accounts for 2007 reported an 11.2-percent growth in overall investments. This growth in capital formation came mainly from construction, especially government construction, which zoomed by 31 percent. It was, after all, an election year. In fact, the last one we had good investment growth (7 percent) was in 2004, also an election year. But that was followed by -5.5 and 2.7 percent for 2005 and 2006, respectively. In fact, by the very first quarter of 2007, investment growth had swung dramatically to 4.9 percent.

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This time around seems a bit different. The first quarter 2007 growth in investment was an encouraging 7 percent. And it didn't come from government investment alone, but from private investment spending in construction (15.1 percent) and durable equipment (8.2 percent). Are we out of the investment doldrums at last, then, and poised for catching up with our neighbors' investment leaps? Well, not quite. A look behind the numbers tells us it's not time to be running just yet.

Bad reversals

There have in fact been either bad reversals or just unsustained in the overall growth in investment.

One, government investment swung around to negative territory (-9.3 percent), a sharp drop that suggests the 2007 government construction expenditures were a flash in the pan, and were never sustainable. The government's 2008 budget proposes actually pointed to a drop in the overall revenue-to-GDP ratio in 2008, a direction I describe in my recent economic briefing as "running in slow fast." From the supposed windfall from the 60% on petroleum products due to the oil price hikes won't be relied on to fund more construction, as government is bound pursuant to the new sin taxes law to spend half of the revenue it had hit by the inflow-money surge. Two, the foreign component of investments dropped even more precipitously. The Bangko Sentral announced last week that actual net FDI inflows fell by 68 percent in the first five months of the year, worsening the 43.5-percent drop already posted as of April.

Against these big negative numbers, private domestic investment growth has to be saved the day. Luckily for us, they have been large enough to more than offset the drop in government construction and FDI. Have private Filipino investors suddenly become much more confident of our economic prospects, then? Does an election why that would be so. What I note from the data, however, is that capacity utilization in the economy has been higher than usual. Coupled with the recent investment drought, this tells me that Filipino businesses are now investing merely because they need to, i.e., to replace worn out equipment or keep abreast of technology. What more than, if they did not watch their startups counterparts, would invest even more because they need to, i.e. spurred by greater confidence in our economic future. Such confidence boosters are what we need from our leaders at this time.

(Comments welcome at chabito@mozcom.ph)

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

— AIG Winning Edge:

Philamlife's Cutting-Edge Breakthrough in Investments

Breakthrough Innovation, Superior Values Account for Philamlife's Over 60 Years of Leadership

The Philippine American Life and General Insurance Company (Philamlife), the country's leading life insurer, had another record year in 2007, with gross premiums reaching P22.7 billion, a 15.9% increase compared to 2006.

The company reported that its life insurance operations generated P7.4 billion in new business, growing a strong 57.6% compared to the previous year.

Commenting on the company's 2007 performance, AIG Country Head and Philamlife President and CEO Jose L. Cuisia, Jr. said: "Sales of our single premium variable life products surged, fueled by aggressive agency and marketing initiatives, and a strong market preference for investment-type products. Our financial strength and stability make us the wise choice for potential investors. In 2007, we had consolidated assets of P170.0 billion and stockholders' equity of P49.5 billion. Investment income increased 3.1% to P9.4 billion. Total revenues amounted to P36.7 billion, 14.0% higher than the previous year. Net income adjusted for foreign exchange was P4.8 billion, a 15.8% increase versus the previous year's P4.1 billion. Pre-tax income was P2.8 billion in 2007."

Philamlife Receives 5th Platinum Trusted Brand Award

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Philamlife is the only financial institution and insurance company in the Philippines that has enjoyed the Platinum Trusted Brand distinction for 5 straight years. This prestigious award given by Reader's Digest is based on Nielsen's surveys on criteria of trustworthiness, credible image, quality, value, understanding consumer needs and innovation.

To win this Platinum award, the company must be voted by consumers and enjoy a consumer preference lead of 200% to 300% above the next competitor.

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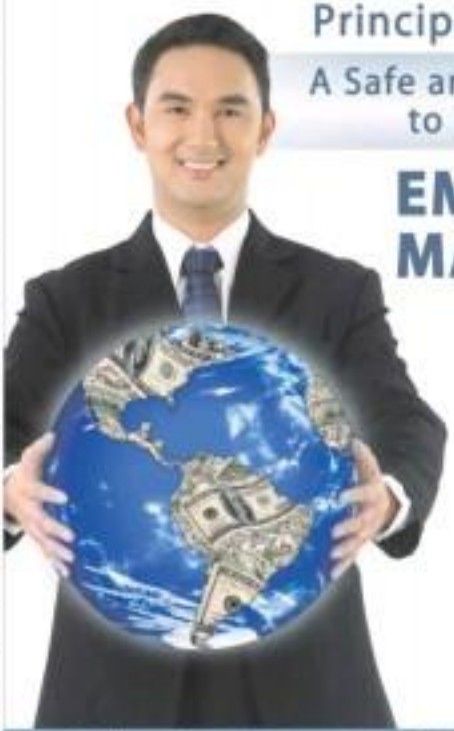

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China Bank profit down 10.7% in first 6 months

By Doris C. Dumlao

PEREZ, TYCOON HENRY SY'S CHINA Banking Corp. posted a 10.7% percent drop in first-semester net profit compared to a year ago as trading gains slashed while its branch expansion and consolidation with Manila Bank jacked up expenses.

China Bank disclosed on Friday that its net profit fell to P1.46 billion during the January to June period from P1.63 billion booked in the same semester last year.

"Market conditions proved to be generally tough for the entire banking industry during the first semester as the fall out from the subprime lending crisis in the US was felt globally. Nevertheless, we are pleased to note that China Bank fared relatively well under the circumstances, considering that we are still in expansion mode," China Bank president and CEO Peter Dee said in a statement.

China Bank's total revenues went up 6.46 percent to P3.03 billion for the period, but the most of its banking peers, net income was weighed down by the slump in securities-related revenues.

Net earnings were also eroded by higher operating expenses arising from the implementation of its three-year branch expansion plan and the integration of Manila Bank, which brought in network size to 208 branches. Operating expenses rose 14.09 percent to P2.47 billion from a year ago.

But the 100-year-old bank managed to post a return on equity of 13.08 percent and a return on assets of 1.59 percent, still among the highest in the industry.

Interest revenues from loans expanded 16.46 percent year-on-year as the bank grew its loan portfolio while interest income from investment securities and other receivables declined 34.2 percent due to lower yields.

Other fee-based revenues showed a 42.75-percent growth despite the lower trading gains, boosted by improvements in foreign exchange gains, trust fees, sale of acquired assets as well as service charges, fees and commissions.

China Bank's loan base is 12.9 percent year-on-year growth in gross loans, fueled by the 32.8 percent rise in consumer lending. In terms of asset quality, the bank's non-performing loans ratio stood at 0.7 percent.

The bank said it had taken 1.2-billion stance by hurdling up its provisions for losses from P826.71 million to P1,008.16 million, bringing its loan-loss coverage ratio to 94.32 percent.

As of June 2009, total consolidated resources stood at P189.1 billion, 8.21 percent more than the end-December level. Of this, net loan portfolio accounted for P92.3 billion.

Slowdown in trading gains

Vista Land eyes BPO projects

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lazaro

VISTA LAND AND LIFESTYLES Inc., one of the country's biggest home builders, is looking at branching out into the lucrative development of office spaces for the business process outsourcing (BPO) sector given its massive landbank outside Metro Manila.

Manuel Paolo Villar, Vista Land head for corporate planning, said the property firm was looking at pushing up BPO projects outside Metro Manila next year, particularly in Subic and the Visayas.

"Vista Land is also contemplating on investing in existing BPO projects," Villar said.

"We're noticing that segment operates relatively. What that means is, the trend of BPOs is to look at alternative areas to locate for a number of reasons," Villar said.

The primary reason why BPOs are locating outside Metro Manila is the high cost of rent in central business districts.

Another reason being BPOs to locate to the provinces or to the outskirts of the metropolis is to avoid being trapped with other call centers in the same place, Villar said.

"So they're looking to branch out and to exploit the labor forces outside the areas where they are in now," Villar said.

Vista Land has zoned landbanks of 1,794.6 hectares, of which 82 percent is in Mega Manila or Metro Manila and its neighboring provinces in Cavite, Laguna, Rizal, Batangas and Pampanga.

"We don't see the condition meeting this stage of the [BPO development] game because there's quite a bit of demand and it's going to where we have substantial landbank," Villar said.

Vista Land has more than 30 years of experience in the residential real estate development with buyers across all income segments.

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The Board of Electric Cooperatives Inc. through the Provincial Electric Cooperatives Online Procurement Monitoring System (PEPMS) is open for eligibility and is set to the following projects:

Name of Prequalification Documents	Time every Project Is Held Available
Approved Budget Cost	20.00 M

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the bid opening.

The bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.

The contractor shall have adequate key personnel and equipment in accordance with the following minimum requirements:

The contractor shall have adequate key personnel and equipment in accordance with the following minimum requirements:

PARTICULARS	DATE/ MEETING/S
Issuance of Bid Documents	Starting August 6, 2009, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	August 21, 2009, 9:00 A.M.
Pre-Bidding Conference	August 28, 2009, 10:00 A.M. (MOA Board Room)
Bid Opening	September 11, 2009, 10:00 A.M.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the Office of the Bids and Awards Committee upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Ten Thousand pesos (P10,000).

LEGO IS welcome to reasonably withdraw or compromise or reasonably reject any or all bids, and to waive any defect therein, to accept such bid as it may consider to be in the best interest of the Government.

(Post is an advertisement to PSE July 28, 2009.)

Atty. MEL LORENZO B. PERALTA
PBAC Chairman

Atty. MR. ELI A. ALCANTARA
Branch Manager

(PSE August 10, 2009)

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The NORTHERN SAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC. (NORSAMELCO) has received funds to upgrade the existing 3-phase line into a double circuit from BARANGAY DELIBIRAN to the municipal building, Catarman, Northern Samar.

Interested parties are hereby invited to a Pre-qualification and Sealed Bidding for the supply of the materials stated:

Project	Construction of Double Circuit Line
Location	Barangays Dalirao to Catarman, San Jose
Contract	Supply of Materials
Source	Philippine

Package	Description	
A	Line Hardware	1 lot
B	Concrete Pole	1 lot

Bid documents will be issued after passing the eligibility to bid and upon payment of Seven Thousand Pesos only (7,500.00) non-refundable fee before the pre-bid conference.

Interested contractors/suppliers or bidders may inquire from the above-mentioned personnel for invitation to the pre-bid conference.

Acquisition of Letter of Intent	August 10-21, 2009
Deadline of Eligibility requirement	August 21-22, 2009
Deadline of Eligible Bidder	August 23-24, 2009
Pre-Bid Conference	August 25, 2009 @ 10:00
Document Opening of Bids/Bidders	September 1, 2009 @ 1 PM

Only qualified bidders who passed during the pre-qualification screening will be allowed to participate in the bidding. Bid documents must be accompanied by Bid security equivalent to 2% of the total bid price in an acceptable form.

The PBAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility check and Screening as well as post-bidding examination of bids. The PBAC will conduct post qualification of the lowest bid.

NORSAMELCO reserves however the right to reject any or all bids without disclosing any reason to waive any minor defects or irregularities or to accept such bid as may be considered most advantageous to NORSAMELCO.

For further information please contact the following nos. (055) 251-2222 (055) 251-2223 or (055) 251-2224.

Engr. RICARDO D. HERNANDEZ
General Manager

Engr. HILO EDTOMA
PBAC Chairman

(PSE August 10 and 11, 2009)

PSE posts 31% drop in net profit

THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE (PSE) said its net income fell 31.2 percent to P146.26 million in the first half from P276.32 million in the same period last year due to lower-than-expected trading activities.

In its financial report, the PSE said operating revenue fell 26.35 percent to P392.7 million in the first half from P533.25 million in the same period last year due to lower trading and service fees.

Trading-related fees went lower by 32.66 percent as a result of a low volume of trading during the period. Trading-related income comes charged on subscription, listing, transaction fees and data feed.

Listing has fell 15 percent to P161.7 million in the first half from P276.8 million in the same period last year due to lower fees collected from follow-on offers.

In terms of initial public offers, there were less companies that featured a maiden debut—San Miguel Brewery Inc., and Pepsi Cola Products Philippines Inc. in the first half—compared with none in the same period last year.

Save for that of the PSE's clearing house—the Securities Clearing Corp. of the Philippines—fell 41.38 percent to P68.8 million from P117.35 million due to the decrease in total traded volume. Elizabeth Sanchez-Lazaro

Slow trading seen

Pantaleon B3

"The strategy should be to sell stocks that have appreciated in price and may not offer much in the future while holding on to those that are extremely undervalued. Support is at 2,708 while resistance is at 2,775," ABS Capital Securities said.

It added that with the lack of any major market moving news this week, focus for the PSEi would be tied to downtrend.

PLDT, which has been bearing the market lately, could succumb to selling on Aug. 10, the ex-date of its cash dividend.

ABS Capital said Ayala Corp., the second largest component of the PSEi, opened last week's trading session by announcing that its first-half net income shrank from last year. The smaller net income was attributable to double drops in the net income of Globe Telecom and Bank of the Philippine Islands.

San Miguel reported a huge increase in its first-half earnings. Boosted by nonrecurring gains from the sale of stocks and equities, San Miguel said Australian brewery J. Boag and four stockholdings from the nonstrategic offer of its form unit, San Miguel Brewery, within this year. "SMC is really extremely glad to diversify into food-oriented businesses," AB Capital Securities said. Elizabeth Sanchez-Lazaro

Gov't seen missing '08 palay, corn output targets

PDIC starts servicing G7 bank depositors

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE STATE-OWNED PHILIPPINE Deposit Insurance Corp. will start servicing today the claims of the depositors of padlocked G7 Bank Inc. based in Naga City.

In a statement Friday night, PDIC said that during the initial claims servicing operations, PDIC staff will distribute claim forms beginning where the depositors will return it to the bank to submit the accomplished forms together with the documentary requirements.

Initial servicing of claims at the bank's head office in Panganiban Drive in Concepcion Grande, Naga City, Camarines Sur and Naga and Habon branches will be conducted during office hours from Monday to Friday, including holidays, until Sept. 12.

Claims will be serviced in Daraga, Ligao, Polangui and Pilar branches from Aug. 18 to Sept. 5.

PDIC will reimburse claims servicing at the head office from Oct. 7 to 20 for depositors of Naga and Habon branches; at Polangui for depositors of Polangui, Daraga and Ligao branches; and at the PDIC Iloilo Office for the depositors of Pilar Branch.

For the third phase, all G7 Bank depositors are advised to mail their claim forms and documentary requirements to the PDIC Claims Processing Department, 6/L 5105 Bldg., Ayala Avenue corner Gamboa Street, Makati City.

In a statement, PDIC assured depositors that all valid deposit insurance claims shall be paid.

G7 Bank, a seven-unit bank, was ordered closed by the Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas last July 31.

Higher spending on agri offset by flooding, expensive fertilizer

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE still likely aims to production targets this year for palay and corn, due largely to continuous rains and flooding and rising cost of farm inputs.

In its August 2008 report, the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics said that total palay output was expected to fall only 36.94 million metric tons in 2008, 1.3 percent lower than initial government estimates of 37.31 million MT.

Corn production—which was earlier expected to grow by 18 percent to 7.06 million MT—is now expected to grow by only 4 percent to 7 million MT.

Production this year, however, is would still end up higher than last year's figures, according to the BAS.

For the palay subsector, BAS said production in the second half of the year is anticipated to slightly expand by 2.26 percent to 9.02 million MT from its year-ago level of 8.51 million MT.

Harvest area for palay is also seen to increase by 4.81 percent while yield per hectare may likely decline by 1.49 percent as farmers reduce fertilizer use due to high cost of the inputs.

In third quarter alone, palay production may reach 3.46 million MT or 9.89 percent higher than year-ago record of 3.15 million MT.

Significant production gains are expected to come from Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Mimaropa and Eastern Visayas, BAS said.

It added that all regions, except Davao and Soccsksargen, are looking forward to increases in harvest areas due to sufficient water from rains and irrigation water from reclosed and rehabilitated irrigation canals.

In the fourth quarter, palay output is to reach 6.76 million MT, or about 0.04 percent higher than last year's level of 6.3 million MT.

Meanwhile, corn production for the second semester is seen to decrease by 8.78 percent or 3.71 million MT from the previous year's 5.88 million MT.

Area harvested are also seen to decline by 3.56 percent and yield per hectare, by 3.58 percent.

BAS explained that "these outlooks could be attributed to the movement of cropping to the first semester due to early onset of rains, adverse effects of typhoon Frank and the probable reduction of fertilizer usage due to high prices of the inputs."

In the third quarter alone, corn output is forecast to reach only 2.26 million MT, down 11.37 percent from last year's 2.54 million MT.

During this period, rainfed harvest area and yield are also foreseen to decline by 7.80 percent and 3.87 percent, respectively.

For the fourth quarter, corn is anticipated to post gains in production, and area harvested to 1.45 million MT and 2.84 percent, respectively.

"The foreseen increase in harvest area would be attributed to movement of cropping to the fourth quarter due to delayed planting of damaged areas in the previous quarter," BAS said.

PHILAM LIFE

Investment Funds	Net Asset Value Per Unit (NAVPU)	
	as of 8/8	as of 8/11
Philamlife Equity Fund	1.5233	1.5201
Philamlife Fixed Income Fund	1.2373	1.2331
Philamlife Balanced Fund	0.9480	0.9556
Philamlife Dollar Bond Fund	1.4049	1.4056
Philamlife Global Bond Fund	1.1949	1.1999

Investment Management Corporation

Incentives for low system loss sought

By Abigail L. Ho

INTENT OF MERTHABLE REDUCing system loss caps, the Energy Regulatory Commission should look at providing incentives to power distribution that go below the existing ceilings, considering that a component of system loss—pilferage—is almost beyond the control of power companies.

Emmanuel Rodis, president and chief executive of Manila Power Corp., said the provision of incentives to companies that go below the mandated caps would be better for the industry as it could boost inflow of new investment into the distribution sector.

"Let franchisees figure out how to reduce those losses, then give them incentives. When you give incentives, you start seeing what people can do. For me, it's better to incentivize companies to reduce system loss (than to arbitrarily reduce the caps)," he said in an interview.

"Most (distribution utilities) are above the cap. There's a fair amount of pilferage there. You can reduce system loss by investing, but when you invest, you have to make certain," he added.

Instead of lowering investments, the proposed reduction of existing system loss caps could force power distributors to scrimp on their systems loss reduction efforts as the savings arising from lower system losses might not be enough to cover the amount of investments that they would have to induce.

"If you can't make a decent return on your investments, then it might not be worth it. The investment to reduce system loss may be higher than what you can save just to meet the cap. If that's the case, it would be better to just leave things as they are," he said.

System loss refers to the sum of electricity lost due to nontechnical causes such as pilferage or technical causes such as heat loss when electricity travels through power distribution lines.

Under the current setup, distribution utilities can pass on to consumers up to 9.5 percentage of its system losses. Anything beyond the cap is absorbed by the company.

Rural electric cooperatives, on the other hand, have a system loss cap of 14 percent.

Under an ERC draft resolution issued Aug. 4, system loss caps would be reduced to 8 percent from 9.5 percent for distribution utilities and to 11 percent from 14 percent for electric cooperatives.

The "company use" component—or electricity used by distribution utilities and electric cooperatives—would likewise be treated as an expense and no longer as part of system loss, according to the draft resolution.

Should the ERC resolution be enacted into law, the company's Visayan Electric Co. Inc. would have to absorb about P3.01 million in losses a month.

Rodis's concern, however, is that the ERC would not be able to issue the rules and regulations to implement the law before the end of its term in June 2009.

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Exports to Japan up 5% as of May

By Reena V. Domingo

MERCHANDISE EXPORTS TO JAPAN SO OF May grew 5 percent to $1.7 billion, according to the Japan External Trade Organization.

Jetro also said that data from the Ministry of Finance showed that Philippine imports from Japan increased 14.8 percent to $4.2 billion.

The pace Japan's surplus on trade with the Philippines in the first five months to $427.1 million, more than four times the amount posted in the comparative period last year.

As of end-May shipments from the Philippines accounted for 3.2 percent of Japan's total imports valued at some $392.9 billion.

Also, Japan's merchandise exports sent to the Philippines accounted for 1.2 percent of Japan's total exports of some $500.1 billion.

For May alone, exports to Japan increased by 2.9 percent to $769.9 million compared to the same month of 2007.

As the country's biggest trade partner, Japan sent up 29.3 percent to $963.3 million.

In May, Japan's surplus on trade with the Philippines reached $92.6 million.

Meanwhile, the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) Coalition of more than 50 multi-sectoral groups last week challenged senators who signed the report prepared by the Senate committee on foreign affairs to clarify their positions on the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement.

The MAC expressed concern over the pronouncement of Sen. Miriam Santiago that the ratification of the "lopsided" agreement was "virtually assured" as 14 senators had already signed the report.

"We believe that this economic partnership agreement with Japan is against the interests of Filipinos and is, therefore, anti-Filipino," the group said.

The coalition also criticized Senator Santiago's prediction of an explosive growth for the Philippine economy once Jetpa is ratified.

"Is this backed by solid research?" asked the group, adding that based on their study much of the proposed Jetpa gains are "imaginary, but the losses are genuine and real."

"A chain of cassie market stores for electronics, furniture and automotive parts under is not true," MAC said. "Even without the Jetpa, these products already cover Japan duty-free. Jetpa will not change anything."

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• field-tested templates that can immediately be adopted and applied by the team within the organization

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• Blue Ocean Strategy
Module 3: Communicating Value
• Brand Positioning
• Brand Engagement
• Word-of-Mouth Marketing
Module 4: Carry-Out Value Proposition
• Distribution Strategy
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For inquiries and registration, please call Alice, Joy or Melody at telefax nos. (63-2) 712-1318 / 727-7041, tel. no. 812-0836, email info@manpowerdc.net, visit www.manpowerdc.net or text 0918-81-388-88.

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Nokia's new do-it-all device is now more stylish, serious-looking

Text and photos by Charles E. Bukot

THE DEBUT OF NOKIA'S E71 may be regarded as a bit hushed considering that neither a glitzy bash nor a massive advertisement accompanied the mobile phone's introduction here.

But quickly as the new business-centric device slipped into the country's store shelves, buyers still came to, snapping up almost every available unit.

"We were amazed about the very extraordinary reception. But it's not hard to understand why. E71's well-crafted look and feel plus the abundance of functions it could provide are more than enough attributes to convince a lot of buyers," says Nokia Philippines' GM Williams Isasiduon Sr.Nov.

Indeed, this 9.9-mm device is one of the slickest and stylish Nokia phones this writer has encountered. Just a centimeter thick, Nokia claims it's the thinnest QWERTY smart phone on the market today.

Stainless steel

It's exciting, what is made up mostly of stainless steel, is a far cry from its predecessors that are made mostly of plastic, which look less attractive. This time, the E71 is not only elegant-looking but also tough enough to endure heavy use, unintentional smacking and dropping.

Interestingly, the E71's design and ergonomics echo recurring 11.4 cm and 5.7 cm-and weighing 128 grams-dimensions to the iPhone. However, Hamilton-Meyer was quick to clarify that the E71 possesses a different set of buyers from that of Apple's mobile phone.

Sporting a full QWERTY keyboard as well as a color-rich 2.36-inch QVGA screen, the E71 is obviously built for mobile professionals who need to send e-mails more often and who also don't mind using both hands when typing.

THE E71 is a hit on its design and capability value, from the praises users has the E61.

Fully equipped

The E71 offers fast and seamless browsing with HSDPA, wireless LAN and BT connectivity. Assisted GPS (A-GPS) and Nokia maps for navigation, a music player with support for up to 8 GB expandable memory.

"The E71 offers easy-to-install and easy-to-use professional and personal e-mail. People who use Microsoft Exchange at work can access their e-mails using the Mail for Exchange mobile e-mail client, which is pre-loaded with the E71. With this device, users can get reliable real-time access to their e-mails, calendar, contacts and tasks, as well as download attachments like Word, Excel, PowerPoint or PDF files directly to their devices," Hamilton-Meyer said.

He adds that the E71 also supports e-mail accounts from Gmail, Yahoo! Mail, Hotmail as well as the Nokia Intelligent Wireless Email solution and third party e-mail solutions like System Seven and Mint Mobile.

Switch mode

But the most interesting feature of the E71 is its new switch mode that allows a user to easily toggle between personal and business scenarios. With a dedicated, top-level menu button, the device could change the theme of the phone, including the mailbox, menu, home screen and a host of other menus to help the user set better management of his personal and professional concerns.

The E71 is an excellent choice for those as well as download attachments calls and taking snap shots.

Web browsing is also great not to mention that the E71 makes a fine laptop substitute as it sports a micro USB for charging and tethering with a laptop. In addition to serving entrepreneurs and corporate customers, the Nokia E71 ostensibly equipped with a robust suite of corporate grade features, including a built-in encryption functionality for both the device memory and for the memory card. The E71 includes integrated mobile VPN support that gives mobile professionals access to their company intranet, and device lock and wipe to protect corporate information.

It's also nice to learn that the device also sports a 3.2 megapixel camera as well as a front camera for video calls although one should not expect too much about its picture output.

Battery life also would only offer a 2.5 mm headphone jack, instead of the standard 3.5 mm jack.

Despite these minor concerns, the E71 is an incredibly pocketable and comfortable smart phone to hold and use. With loads of functions, the E71 becomes an indispensable tool and one would be no naive not to consider this device as-but or but not phone.

Full desktop features in mobile workstation

THINKPAD W700

LENOVO'S NEW ENTRY IN THE MOBile workstation market, the 17-inch widescreen ThinkPad W700, boasts of game-changing technologies and innovations that extend the inherent strengths of the most data- and graphics-intensive tasks.

The ThinkPad W700 offers a built-in digitizer and color calibrator combined with first-to-market technologies such as new NVidia Quadro FX mobile graphics. Lenovo said it can support the upcoming Intel mobile quad core processor. Other features such as optional dual hard drives with RAID configurations, up to 8 GB of high speed DDR3 memory, a range of wireless connectivity options and excellent multimedia capabilities—including an optional Blu-ray DVD burner player—make the ThinkPad W700 mobile workstation the standard-bearer for power and performance in a mobile workstation, Lenovo claims.

"Lenovo has engineered a new breed of mobile workstation with the ThinkPad W700," said Vicky Agarella, general manager of Lenovo Philippines.

New breed

"No other PC manufacturer has a mobile workstation that delivers the sheer power, performance and cutting-edge innovation that Lenovo has packed into the ThinkPad W700. The ThinkPad W700 mobile workstation flat out delivers the command performance our customers demand at the desk as well as in the field," Agarella said.

The ThinkPad W700 mobile workstation complements Lenovo's W500 mobile workstation and the ThinkPad T400 and T410. It suits people who work in the fields...such as those in digital content creation, computer-aided design and manufacturing, digital photography and even those in the oil and gas sector. As they become increasingly mobile, they demand the full-feature performance of a desktop-class workstation, it said.

The ThinkPad W700 mobile workstation takes customary driven innovation to a new level with an optional built-in palm rest digitizer and color calibrator.

Lenovo and Intel collaborated to integrate the color calibrator and digitizer into the ThinkPad W700 mobile workstation.

Designed for digital content creators and users, the mobile workstation's digitizer helps them configure an image, either mapping it to the entire screen or to an area defined by the user.

High performance users will benefit from models with built-in color calibrator, which adjusts the display's colors with higher accuracy.

The mobile workstation can be configured with up to 8 GB of memory with an additional 2 GB of Intel Turbo Memory.

Extreme performance

As the company's first product with a 17-inch display, the ThinkPad W700 mobile workstation delivers an unparalleled viewing experience with a combination of leading technologies. Its optional 400-nit WUXGA display provides up to twice the brightness of earlier models, and the 72 percent wide color gamut provides more than 30 percent greater color intensity.

The ThinkPad W700 mobile workstation will be available beginning September 2008 with models starting at P109,200.

Intel unveils new Centrino chips for notebooks

By Raquel P. Gomez

THE WAIT IS OVER.

Intel has finally unveiled the awaited next generation Centrino processors that are already based on the 45 nm (nanometer) Intel Core 2 Duo 64 metal gate silicon technology as its newest features enhancement and business laptops.

Laptops or notebooks that will run on Intel's new Centrino processors are expected to perform better and run less power than notebooks that run on Intel's 65 nm Core 2 Duo Santa Rosa Centrino, according to Intel executives.

Intel announced five new Centrinos that are based on the Intel Centrino 2 processor technology and Intel Centrino 2 with vPro technology.

These are the new platforms that will enable the new wave of powerful notebooks to deliver more performance for multitasking or intensive multimedia applications such as high-definition entertainment or gaming on a longer battery life.

Long battery life

The new Centrino processors now come with a higher 1066-MHz front-side bus (FSB) and up to 6 MB L2 cache, in addition to a power consumption of only 25 watts, thereby prolonging the life of the battery.

Fifty or data transfer rate between the CPU and the memory controller/gfx chipset in notebooks in the market today ranges only from 533 MHz and 667 MHz.

There's new Intel chips also features "deep down technology" that turns off processing components such as core clocks and cache memory when the laptop is idle for greater energy savings.

Intel country manager Ricky Razon said the new Centrinos would respond to the need for mobile PCs to handle rich multimedia content such as games and HD movies alongside huge data uploads, downloads, and streaming over wireless over the Internet.

"When we first introduced Intel Centrino in the country in 2003, Wi-Fi was just in its infancy. Thin and light only referred to weight of the unit and wired networking didn't really exist. Today Wi-Fi hotspots have proliferated and laptop manufacturers have dramatically gone up."

High-definition

"With these new processors, Intel is paving the way for high definition (HD) entertainment, rich online gaming, faster broadband wireless speeds and an easier and more secure way for businesses to manage, update and repair their notebook fleet," he said.

According to the data presented by Intel, the current available dues for notebooks versus desktop PCs is at 65 percent and the trend will continue for next year, with notebooks predicted to have have a share of 65 percent versus desktop PC share of 67 percent.

Intel also revealed the Mobile Intel 45 Express Chipset, the fifth generation Intel chipset for the new Centrino processors.

The new chipset offers new capabilities like improved game playability, enhanced Intel clear video technology, Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 4500 MHD (code name Eaglelake), support for dual-channel DDR3 1066 MHz and up to 384 MB video memory, improved security, integrated high-definition capability, support for digital display like HDMI, and power management features that enable power savings for longer battery life.

Hard core gamers

For Wi-Fi capability for the new Centrinos, Intel offers the new Intel Wi-Fi Link 5000 series, which can deliver five times the speed and twice the range of 802.11a/g with 802.11 b/g technology. This new Wi-Fi card already provides 802.11 draft-N support to deliver the fastest data rates at possible today or up to 450 Mbps.

Pierre Wang, Intel's product manager, said with a laptop running on the new Centrinos 2 plus the Mobile Intel 45 Express Chipset and the Intel WiFi Link 5000, gamers will be able to play and enjoy heavy online games in a Wi-Fi hotspot.

At the new Centrinos launch, Intel also announced the new Pentium mainstream dual-core mobile processors...Intel Core 2 Extreme...running at a brisk 2.06 GHz with a 1066 MHz FSB and 6 MB L2 cache. This chip is for hard core gamers, artists and media enthusiasts who demand even more power and speed from a notebook PC.

Intel officials said close to 200 consumer and business notebooks, which include brands like Acer, Lenovo, Fujitsu, HP and Toshiba, equipped with the new Centrinos are already on the way and will hit stores in the next few months.

XFX: Plug into our world and feel the power of gold

XFX INTRODUCES THE XFX NVidia GeForce 9800 GX2 based graphics card which, it claims, is a true gold standard of graphics solution that offers the most powerful performance for gamers and entertainment enthusiasts.

The GeForce 9800 GX2-based graphics card combines the power of two GeForce 9800 GTX cards to a single graphics solution. Featuring NVIDIA Hybrid Power technology, 256 streaming processors and a 1 GB GDDR3 buffer, the powerhouse clocks in at up to 30 percent faster across games than the industry's previous top solution, the GeForce 8800 Ultra.

The 9800 GX2's powerful, dual-GPU design enables smooth, clear play at resolutions of up to 2560 x 1600, even with all available in-game features turned on. It is also designed for the new PCI Express 2.0 bus architecture, offering the highest data transfer speeds for the most bandwidth-hungry games and 3D applications, while maintaining backwards compatibility with PCI Express motherboards for the broadest support.

The 9800 GX2 graphics card utilizes a second generation NVidia PureVideo® HD technology engine for an unsurpassed home theater experience. Users experience unprecedented HD picture clarity, smooth video, accurate color and precise image scaling for movies or video. PureVideo is a discrete programmable video processing core that provides advanced, real-time video decoding and post-processing capabilities for maximum picture quality. An integrated HDMI connector allows users to send both high-definition video and audio signals to their HDTVs via a single cable.

XFX NVidia GeForce 9800 GX2 based graphics card

The 9800 GX2 graphics card goes the distance with additional technological advancements, such as the ability to enlarge lower resolution movies and videos to HDTV resolutions, recover original film images from films converted, re-video, noise reduction and inverse telecine—all of the enhancements that the user experience a truly gold standard.

BUSINESS Monday
Business Features Editor
Margie Quiroga-Espino

Not-so-secret strategies of self-made Filipino millionaires

Ma. Sabo Digilio
Inquirer net

ANTONIO L. TIU IS the image of a young, wealthy Chinese businessman. As president of AgriNurture Inc., a P3-billion agriculture company preparing for an initial public offering, the 32-year old visionary can easily live like a billionaire.

But he doesn't. Not only because his generic make-up won't allow it (he is a self-proclaimed frugal Chinese), but also because like a growing number of low-key millionaires in Philippine society, his wealth is the result of hard work and not easy inheritance.

"When my father passed away, he didn't leave anything to us except a good education," Tiu says.

De La Salle University where Tiu got his degree, is not known for kids with simple lifestyles, but as an upperclassman, Tiu's P50 a day allowance didn't allow him to party and live it up as most of his schoolmates did. Instead, he spent his spare time in Internet shops working part-time to type term papers, skipping lunch when needed.

Now that he operates the first agriculture company in the country that's starting to rights on getting listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange, Tiu still lives simply. "I can live on P1,000 a month because I hardly buy anything," he says. "I love shopping, but shopping for computers," he adds.

Inquirer.net received tons of feedback from readers when the Philippine Daily Inquirer published the article "Hidden, self-made millionaires around us." Mon Quimarin, the website's personal finance blog, was swarmed with comments for its follow-up entry on "How did you make your first million?"

Readers say the answers were very inspiring and revealing. Here are some of the best from the web:

Jerome

Way back in 2003, my wife and I were totally millionaires – in debt! It was an ironic transition because while we had some savings, we were practically buried in debt. Our journey to financial freedom started in April of that year. We attended a seminar on financial planning and from then on, everything was accounted for. Two years later, we were out of debt and with a net worth of P2.5 million. *Pareh na, di ba?* Our first step was to really get

MOST READ (LATEST 60) ▸

MOVEMENTS

AXA appoints new Asia execs

ANDREW PENG, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER of AXA Asia-Pacific Holdings Ltd., has announced the appointment of Michael Bishop as new regional chief executive officer for AXA Asia Life, and Helen Perkins as regional chief operating officer.

Both executives will be based in the Asia regional office in Hong Kong.

Mike Bishop will be joining AXA from Prudential Corporation Asia where he last served as managing director responsible for the life insurance businesses in Korea, Hong Kong, Japan, Taiwan, Thailand and the Philippines. Mike replaces Mark Pearson who has accepted a new role as CEO of AXA Japan, one of the AXA Group's largest businesses.

Friendster has new CEO

FRIENDSTER Inc. (www.friendster.com), the ninth largest website in the world based on traffic and the No. 1 social network in Asia, has appointed Richard Kimber as its new chief executive officer (CEO) and a member of its board of directors.

As the new CEO, Kimber will lead Friendster's global business and guide operations in Asia and the United States.

Most recently, Kimber was the regional managing director of South Asia at Google, where he successfully led business operations and strategic partnerships across the region.

Red Ribbon's new president

JOSEPH Tadeo Bunag has been named president of Red Ribbon.

Prior to his appointment, Bunag was vice president and head of Restaurant Systems and Quality Management Division (RSQMD).

Among his many notable initiatives are the implementation of effective and efficient store procedures, store equipment and management systems and protect work group management.

Further more, Bunag's people-based multi-branding projects with Red Ribbon and Greenwich and PGA projects that generated increase in incremental sales.

Insular Life welcomes new EVP

INSULAR Life chair and CEO Ricardo R. Ayllon recently announced the appointment of Jesus Alfonso S. Hernandez as the company's new executive vice president and head of the sales and marketing operations group.

As head of the sales and marketing group, Hernandez is tasked to lead the division in setting strategic directions, establishing performance standards and leading the overall planning, integrated marketing and sales programs in line with the Company's corporate objectives.

Hernandez is a Fellow of Life Management Institute designation, specializing in management science, and is a Lions Leadership Institute Fellow.

He graduated from Ateneo de Manila University, summa cum laude and class valedictorian, with a degree in Psychology.

HSAI-Raintree names execs

HSAI-RAINTREE, the management company of Hotel Veracruz in Legazpi, Albay and the Discovery Bay Manila, Cagayan Island in Bohol, Brcst announced the appointments of key executives to the two properties.

They are Augusto Lorilla as general manager, Ian Verona as resident manager and Bing T. Gallaspe as director of sales.

Lorilla has more than 18 years of experience in the hospitality industry both here and for known international chains abroad.

Before joining the Discovery Group, Gallaspe was director of sales and marketing for a leading resort in Baguio.

Verona was previously division head of business development and community relations of El Nido before his new appointment.

JDA Software names RP head

JDA SOFTWARE (JDA), a worldwide industry-leading provider of supply and demand chain solutions for the retail, manufacturing and wholesale distribution industries, announced the appointment of Gretchen D. Chamorro as its Philippines country manager and the opening of an office here to support its expanding local client base.

Chamorro comes previously the overall head of Oracle Applications Sales for the Manufacturing, Retail and Distribution industries.

He also served as director for Industry Management for Sourcing and Procurement at BayanTrade.

UST honors Tolentino

ADELARDO Tolentino Jr., president and chief executive officer of globally recognized architecture and design firm Aldea Philippines Inc., was recently conferred The Outstanding Thomasian Alumni (Total) Award in Architecture for 2009 by the University of Santo Tomas.

Tolentino, who completed his degree in architecture at the UST in 1987, was recognized for upholding the Thomasian ideals of competence, compassion and commitment in professional and personal endeavors.

Tolentino majored in industrial engineering at the university.

A project spearheaded by the University of Santo Tomas Alumni Association Inc. (USTAA), the Total awards is the highest form of recognition and honor bestowed by the UST and USTAA upon alumni who have excelled in their respective fields of endeavor.

Dealing with employee resistance to computers in the workplace

By Gina Hechanova, Ranna Ermac, Bryce Grossman and John Qua
Contributors

SETTLE, QUICKER AND CHEAPER.

For most and more companies, harnessing computers has been the primary means of increasing efficiency and productivity among their workers.

Yet, despite the obvious advantages of computers in the workplace, the reality is that some people still resist technology.

The Asensio Center for Organizational Research and Development (Asensio CORD) conducted a study of 957 IT managers from a variety of companies and 55 percent reported that they do have employees who are still resistant to technology.

Sources of resistance

Our study reveals that computer resistance emanates from two sources—skills and attitudes.

Employees who resisted computers were those who lacked the skill, experience and awareness of the benefits of computers.

Negative attitudes included a general resistance to change, a lack of motivation to learn, the lack of felt need, fear of technology, perceived difficulty and the fear of downsizing that may result from computerization.

Management strategies

What are organizations do to address employee resistance to computers? Based on the reported strategies of IT managers, there were five general categories of strategies that can be used in managing resistance: Leadership and synergy, human process, skill building, "techno-structural" and economic.

Leadership was vital to ensuring the success of computerization. Role modeling and advocating computer use was a vital step in getting the rest of the organization to embrace technology. Some organizations found that mandating the use of computers provided the needed impetus for resistant employees to use computers.

Skill building was another important aspect of ensuring successful computerization.

Because computers use requires knowledge and skills, organizations made sure their employees were equipped with the competencies needed to use computers.

The most prevailing computer training as well as coaching for users.

Techno-structural interventions to address employee resistance included making computers a part of employees' jobs.

In addition, because employees resistance stemmed from perceived difficulty and a lack of skill, it was also vital to ensure that computer programs were user-friendly.

Organizations also ensured that there were enough computers for employees to use to ensure adoption. The lack of motivation to learn was also addressed by providing incentives and rewards to employees use.

All of these underscores that computer resistance is really more a people rather than technology issue because, it is important to pay attention to how it is introduced to the organization.

Change management

Good change management practices include involving employees in the designing of the programs so that their needs are addressed by the system. In addition, because culture is a powerful tool, building a supportive culture in organizations is important.

For employees who are reluctant to adopt technology, peer pressure may make them feel a greater need to use they be isolated from coworkers. Instilling the confidence and competence of people to using computers is also a must.

In the final analysis, managing computer resistance is really about managing people—the people who create, implement and most importantly, the people who use the technology.

This article is an abridged version of a study featured in the January (2010) issue, "The Way We Work," published by the Ateneo de Manila University Press. For feedback or inquiries please e-mail ateneocord@mailbox.mb.pl.)

COMPUTERS have become an integral part of work in the office, yet there are still those who do not like to use them.

Mutual funds for P1,000 a month

From page B3-1

some Fund, Philam Fund, Philam Strategic Growth Fund, COCI Mutual Fund and the MG Global Bond Fund Philippines.

The conservative investor will usually go for funds which invest only in fixed income instruments while the aggressive will put his money in equity-based funds which provide prospects of higher yields over a long-term horizon.

The moderate investor who's neither conservative nor aggressive can work in balanced funds which are invested in a combination of fixed income and equity instruments.

"The reason why we went into PEF is that this product is actually indifferent to market volatility. It's long-term in perspective, so if you come in on a monthly basis, you're not too sensitive to changes in the market," Montero explains.

"Because remember, you're acquiring shares. So it's good for the investor ... You can cover get the timing right when you invest, but if you're doing it on a monthly basis, you're indifferent to how the market moves, because your objective is really to reach certain amount in terms of investments over a certain period of time," she says.

Cognizant of the market's demand for better yield, Pami allows switching from one fund to another.

"What we're really pushing for is diversification, maybe have a certain basket in fixed income, a certain basket in equity-based funds and then a certain portion in the peso and dollar funds," Montero says.

Thinking long-term

Like an athlete who needs a lot of time to train before bringing home the gold, Pami aims to educate the Filipino investor into thinking long-term instead of going for short-term gains.

"Because of the prominence of time deposit and money market placements, a lot of them are still into the guaranteed concept, so having to educate them toward long-term investment is actually a challenge for us," Montero says.

"But we have decided to take on the challenge by providing them an education on how to invest in our funds based on fixed income and equity-based funds. We're also encouraging conservative investors to perhaps take a little bit more risk by investing in the balanced funds."

Fortunately, more Filipino investors are now turning from savers into investors, learning to accept the risk-reward relationship and the possibility of making higher returns—and by investing in pooled funds, letting the professionals worry about making their money grow.

Not-so-secret strategies of self-made Filipino millionaires

From page B3-1

out of debt and we did this to him down six months. We had to repay our savings account to pay off our debts. After that, everything was monitored and we decided to have reasonable spending habits and save, save, save! Our next plan is to speed up the accumulation by investing in business. We have placements in mutual funds, we are adequately covered by insurance, we dabble in stocks but not every second of the day. The rate of accumulation is not enough for our goal. In short, we did this by educating ourselves and having a plan. Also, a PC-based application (Quicken) helped a lot to allowing us to monitor everything.

Pochalo D. Paragas, 30, Quezon City

I made my first million through independence not inheritance. Learning to live within 70 percent of what we earn and leaving the 30 percent for savings. The 70 percent can be broken down further to utilities, needs, wants, and vices. Making sure that there is room for personal enjoyment in the budget. Treat it like a diet of some sort wherein if you are way too much, there is a tendency to "binge shop." Avoid the urge to join the bandwagon of new things or the looming concept of what the other has you should, too. And live on cash not on credit. If you can't pay for it in cold cash then you can't afford it and learn to accept and realize that. If you plan to buy something, make sure it's for the right reasons. We have this saying "pambos over fashion." If your reasons are right down they're the basic and you would still have money in the bank (30 percent).

How I specifically made my first million? I quit my management level corporate job, developed a business development company, sold my car as capital, had a staff of one, ate under the MRT station for a year and sneaked through Imperial Island, nursed and toast including cleaning the office on Sundays. Three years later, still establishing the company but with a staff of 86, believing in the principles I used. I don't have to tell any of my ears anymore.

Buc142, 36, Quezon City

I made my first million four years ago. I had just quit my job and was practically broke. I had around P20,000 or less in first on. I held them during the corporate years for eight years and made the big choice to quit. It was a bold move that I believe made an impact in my life although at that time some people thought I was crazy. I told my ear for P500,000 and put up my own business. Lucky for me, the business picked up. I still remember going to the ATM machines and seeing the big zero pop up, it was exciting. I hope this inspires people to start thinking out of the box. Never be afraid to take risks.

Mart9310, 35, Hong Kong

I earned my 1st million at age 28. It was slow getting there since I had to do it by saving regularly and working hardly. But just to share my story, savings do work although it might not get you there as fast as other means, but it does pay in time. I started saving when I was 23 and managed to save P200,000 by graduation. Then when I started working, I saved about 60 percent of my monthly income. Instead of the whole way around, I tried to live within 30 percent to 40 percent of my income. By age 28, I aggressively bought a lot and after a year decided to build a house. Although I borrowed money, my net worth skyrocketed from P400,000 to almost P2 million right after I finished the house. I was able to pay up the loan by age 33. Now, working abroad, I'm looking forward to earning my first million in Hong Kong dollars in two to three years again through savings. I tried stocks, but I got burned, so word of caution to all those thinking of investing in stocks. Don't just dive in to it. Study the market and ask advice first before investing, and don't invest too much. Just what you can spare or gamble. Good luck to all and final words: Save, save, save. That will earn you your first million.

Ranee

I made my million by working as a nurse overseas and it all started when I was 25. I was working here in Iceland as a nurse and that is a dream come true. I challenged myself to get rich after saving my family life duty most of money since life is so difficult in the Philippines. Surprisingly, the pay in Iceland is very high, so you could bring home as big as £30,000 (Euro, Iceland is the best in the world for pay scale. US, not anymore. I made this money by working overtime and investing aggressively. I balance work, financial and social life.

Danabri

My family was not well-off, but by the hard work of my mother, our family business, which started in a wet market, grows to where it is now. I am only four years old when I started working for our family business. When teenagers were doing gimmicks, I had my own business which was earning me P50,000 a year. Even before I went to college, our family business allowed me and my siblings to break that P1 million mark. Now, I am an executive working abroad and earning a very good salary. I still invest and save. In fact, my phone is only worth $35. I expand my net income by things I learned from our business and my mom. Hard work, analyzing hard, paying your credit card in full, investing and living within your means.

The Serious Nuts

http://www.theseriousnuts.com/

My wife and I grew our first million in stocks and mutual funds (MFs). That was the easy part. For us, the barrier was our small appetite for making riskier investments other than those offered by banks. We assessed that investment properties are for us as they earn acceptable risks. We made a breakthrough last year by making our first purchase. Now, we are in process of closing the deal for two more. All paid in cash. The best thing about this is that we are now free from regular monthly installments as these properties cover our family support expenses.

Stephen Briones, 29, Davao City

http://personal.finance.ph.blogspot.com/

I achieved my first million and more by working in Japan and living minimally buying only the things that I need, thinking twice before each purchase and whether I really need it or not. If there's a cheaper alternative to the thing that I want, for me, earning millions by working abroad is not very sustainable especially if you plan to go back to the Philippines. It seems you like first million easily but it's what you do with it that will matter most onwards. I hope to be able to just do that. It's true, one million is not much at all these days.

* * *

So secret investment tips turned these Filipinos into self-made millionaires. Instead, the strategies look like a cocktail of learning strategies like saving regularly, living simply, working hard and taking calculated risks—things that many Filipinos take for granted.

(More personal finance articles at the MoneySmarts blog at http://blogs.inquirer.net/moneysmarts/)

Seminars on jewelry, soap set

RAISING A PESETE CAN BE AS EASY AS stringing up beads and tying up colorful threads and straws.

The Golden Treasure Skills Development Program will help budding entrepreneurs turn their straw business jewelry and accessories business through a fashion jewelry and bead-making seminar on Aug. 23, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the College of Social Work and Community Development of the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

Participants will learn to make arts bracelets, earrings, necklaces, anklets, and other accessories using indigenous materials.

For those who are more interested in making soaps and cosmetics, Golden Treasure Skills and Development Program will conduct a one-day seminar today on soap-making also at the CSWCD, Magsaysay Avenue corner Tinsan Street, UP Diliman.

Topics to be discussed are material sourcing and costing.

Participants will be taught how to make liquid dish washing soap, liquid hand soap, liquid all purpose soap, bar detergent soap, powder soap, herbal bath soap (papaya, kalamansi, cucumber, oatmeal, etc.), and glycerin (transparent bath soap) that stays natural.

Some courses include making liquid blends, fabric softener, tile and bowl cleaner, glass cleaner, air freshener, car shampoo, tire block and processing virgin coconut oil for soap.

Participants will receive certificate of training right after the seminar.

Lunch and snacks will be served and handouts and all materials will be provided.

For questions, call 426-76-26, 913-65-51, and 421-1577.

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When cash is no longer king

Thanks to information technology, the world has become nearly small global community. People and communities are connected in ways that give rise to new trends, markets changes, and new consumer demands. Thus, the challenge for many marketers today is coming up with innovative ways to better serve clients using the digital platform. Take for example, the most mundane banking task of yourself (money or retail outlets that so-defined delivery services that cater to time-starved urbanites.

With more technologies, consumers who experience the virtual marketplace are finding it easier to do transactions without the need for cash settlement. Business can be negotiated through email channels or online chatrooms. And cash can now be paid through a reliable internet banking facility. Thus, in this wired world, cash is not necessarily king.

To the advantage of today's consumers, more options or alternatives are being developed to enable the transfer of money without the risk and expense of cash handling. For large commercial banks like Metrobank, the most widely-used form of electronic banking or banking services is a boon to both retail and corporate clients who want faster, better and more convenient services.

"Today's consumers are no more discriminating with the level of service they get from their providers. While speed and accuracy are important, clients are also looking for convenience and personalized service. Convenience is the ultimate advice where they work and how they want to bank gives us the edge in being the preferred bank of our clients," said Metrobank executive vice president Dennis Sulit.

Over the years, the bank has continued to expand and improve its delivery services especially for its e-banking channels. For many consumers, e-banking means 24-hour access to cash through an automated teller machine (ATM). However, nowadays e-banking has evolved into many different types of channels.

Internet Banking

Through the use of the Internet, an enrolled user can do banking transactions at home or the workplace through Metrobankdirect, the Internet banking facility of Metrobank. customers can enjoy a host of services at their fingertips. It allows clients to do personal banking transactions such as bills payment, funds transfer, apply for loans and car loans, or open a subsequent account without having to go to a branch. Clients can inquire about available and unclaimed balances, do statement requests for up to two statement cycles, view 90-days transaction history, and do various other transactions. They can do all these banks from regular banking transactions, clients are able to inquire about the maturity of their time deposit placements. The facility automatically alerts the client when the maturity is approaching. What's more, the facility allows a client to set up a settlement account for stock trading transactions done via Peso Watch Securities. For SMEs and the large corporate accounts, this facility becomes a handy cash management solution to monitor cash flows and other business transactions like keeping an eye on collections or doing direct payments. A link to government e-services is also available for easy remittance of taxes and SSS contributions. On the other hand, overseas Filipinos will find the Remitly internet banking facility very convenient and convenient to do remittance transactions and bills payments anytime they want or abroad.

Expanded ATM services

Aside from cash withdrawals, a Metrobank Electronic Teller (Metrobank ET) cardholder always intend to do more banking transactions like paying bills, transfer of funds and even do shopping without bringing so many cash. This is now possible, as a full ATM card is also an international debit card, affiliated with Mastercard Cirrus which can be used to get cash of any local currency anywhere around the world. This partnership provides cardholders with access to cash in over a million ATMs in more than 210 countries. With its affiliation with Mastercard Maestro, cardholders can shop anywhere in the world with this ATM card and make point-of-sale purchases.

Only recently, Metrobank has opened up certain of its e-channels present to non-Metrobank as well. This move is expected to further boost card transactions since it's no longer necessary to go over the counter just to deposit cash or checks.

Phone Banking

No access to money if you don't make it to the nearest branch or kiosk center. You can use your landline to settle payments even after banking hours. Simply dial 2-8000 in domestic toll free 1-800-1-888-2-800 for Metrobankline and do a host of banking services. Wherever you are, it's easy to bank through your mobile phone. Using a Smart G3000 phone, mobile banking practically allows you to do basic banking transactions anytime, anywhere you want it.

So are you still confined to carrying cash and using it to settle payments? Try using any of Metrobank's electronic banking facilities and experience the convenience of your own terms. For more information, please call 888-8000 for 1-800-1-888-2-800 or log on to www.metrobank.com.ph.

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BUSINESS Monday

Mutual funds for ₱1,000 a month

By Doris C. Dumlao

INVESTING IS LIKE GETTING RICH: quick, the earlier in life you start doing it, the better your chances of winning the gold. And it, too, requires a lot of discipline and patience.

But a typical salaried employee—even one who has a knack for entrepreneurship or any inkling of how the stock, bond or money markets work—can now become an investor much better than he can ever be an athlete. After all, there are so many investment options these days aside from putting up one's own business or buying physical assets such as real estate or livestock.

Filipino investors are encouraged to think more long term

Philam Asset Management Inc. (Philam), the local mutual fund unit of global financial conglomerate AIG, recently launched a personal investment program (PIP) that allows retail investors to participate in its mutual funds for as low as ₱1,000 a month.

It is intended primarily for employees with employers who may want to set aside funds for their future through an affordable savings scheme.

"We established PIP because we want more people to avail of the benefits of mutual funds. We're primarily targeting employees. Panel is going through the same route by pitching this to company executives, for them to institutionalize the PIP within their organizations," Philam executive vice president Gina Coco-Morales says.

A mutual fund, invested by financial wizards for people who have neither the time nor expertise to manage their own funds, pools money and allows the investors to benefit from professional fund management and portfolio diversification.

An investor with a small contribution in the fund gets the same rate of return as the investor with huge equity. Thus, even a call center agent fresh out of college can start building up wealth by setting aside a portion of monthly earnings—simply by skipping some gourmet coffee or a night of club-hopping with friends.

GINA Coco-Morales, Panel executive vice president

Less intimidating

The PIP intends to make investing less intimidating, thereby encouraging people to start investing no matter how small the amount.

Small investors can take advantage of the scheme where they can make monthly investments according to their budgets. Its set hopes to distribute mutual funds in partnership with the human resources (HR) divisions of various companies.

For employees of company-endorsed PIP, the minimum initial investment is ₱1,000, and the required minimum participants in a company is 10 employees. For other individuals, minimum initial investment is ₱10,000. For both investor types, minimum amount for succeeding investments is only 1,000 monthly over a specified term, whether 12, 18, 24 months or more.

"The objective is to make companies realize that they can offer PIP as an optional savings scheme through salary deductions. It's additional work for the human resources and payroll departments, but it will be worth it. Employers will see the endorsement of PIP by their companies as one of their non-cash 'benefits'—their company's way of showing it cares by enabling them to prepare for their future," Morales says.

Morales observes that a lot of benefits offered by companies to employees, such as salary loans, usually encourage spending instead of saving.

"What we're saying is there could actually go hand in hand. When you encourage spending you should also offer benefits that encourage savings or having an investment," she says. "We prefer an endorsement from the HR but if HR will not endorse us, investors can also do it on their own."

Investing made easy

Investing is made easy as this is done via salary deduction or issuance of post-dated checks.

"Similarly, Panel's HO program becomes an outlet for companies to provide a preferred or enticement fund for the staff. Employee loyalty is consequently improved and this can make the company more attractive to top talents looking for stable jobs," adds Panel senior AVP Shirley Ita.

Panel is one of the first asset management companies in the country to manage a family of funds and is a major contributor to the development of the Philippine mutual fund industry. It has the biggest market share in the industry in terms of shareholder accounts, both individual and institutional.

"With PIP, we are broadening our customer base—providing those ultra-reluctant investors an easy way to build their future without risk. We can, in effect, introduce to small investors the advantages of diversification, liquidity and financial expertise that only organizations with extensive financial muscle like Panel can provide," Morales says.

The program actually evolved from an internal investment scheme offered by Philam to its own employees years ago.

Philamlife president Jose Cuisia Jr. himself was among the pioneering investors, contributing ₱5,000 out of his monthly salary to support the program. Boding client calls, then officials found out there's demand for such a retail investment program, inspiring the rollout of the PIP to the public.

PIP is akin to acquiring shares in a mutual fund on an installment basis, like taking financing to purchase a car or a household appliance.

The investor has an array of mutual funds managed by Panel to choose from, depending on individual risk appetite. The company currently administers, distributes and provides investment advisory to seven mutual funds: the Philam Bond Fund, Philam Dollar Bond Fund, Philam Managed In-

PHP30K, SEE B2

WHAT'S INSIDE
Pinoy artists paint Singapore /E1

LIFESTYLE Arts&Books
Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan Arts and Books Editor Lito B. Zulueta

HILOCAMPO absence is part of Laya Room inaugural exhibit.

Jaime Laya, culture champ

He's love of culture is rooted in the family.

He and sisters Eleanor, Susana and Trinidad have donated a room to the National Gallery of Art, now showcasing the family's heritage artworks

By Constantino C. Tejero

A SMALL HOLE CAN BE found in Mariano Antolcio's "Coronation of the Virgin." This oil painting from the 1840s used to be a board for target practice of air-rifle shooting of the owner family's son, and the Holy Spirit, depicted as a dove, was, of course, a natural bull's-eye.

Before the ravages could become total, the piece was salvaged by banker Jaime C. Laya. It has since become part of the Insular Central Bank Collection, which consists of 77 paintings, pre-Hispanic gold jewelry, encrusted pottery.

It was while serving as Central Bank governor in 1983-84 that Laya expanded the collection of seasoned portraits, colonial-era religious art, masterpieces of ambiente, provincial scenes, vistas and seashores. He garnered masterpieces from dispersed private collections, such as of the Paterno

pano 12

Jaime Laya, culture champ

From page C1

family and the heirs of Felipe Buhagiar and Alfonso Ongpin.

The bottom line, of course, depended on his judgment and taste.

"The moral criteria—aesthetics, good condition," he explains the selection process. "Small works are not happy for the formal think, baka marunlis lang. Hindi sila sosyal appropriate sumasa."

Family and writings

Laya says he is essentially a banker. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of the Philippines, magna cum laude, and got his MBA from Stanford University.

Aside from books, collecting stamps was his only hobby originally related to culture. He is even bored while researching matters, but he is really interested in cultural artifacts.

And he values valuable stones as culture, too. His writing is considerably researched and well-documented, the prose lucid and effortless, the style barely there to release the heartbeat.

Rumors runs through Town swears like a sindin, a secret, or a suppressed giggle. Some characters particularly he describes as "caricature of women engaged in watery pursuits on a breast stroke." A revolutionary shop list reports as having untold inventory of "nuts in the barrel to since surging down Town cute" to "undigestible."

His committees account of First Lady Imelda Marcos' disorganized art collection and jewelry is both important documentary and disarming personal essay, a graphic record of shock and awe, success and regret.

Laya's love of culture is assured in family. His father was the author Jose Laya, author of the Commonwealth Literary Award-winning novel "His Native Soil."

His parents' friends and colleagues included stalwarts of Philippine art such as Fernando Amorsolo, Vicente Tolentino, BN Ocampo, Victorio Edades, Galo Ocampo.

First art acquisition

Recently, he and sisters Deanna Sicuan and Trinidad donated a room to the National Gallery of Art on the second floor of the old Legislative Building on Padre Burgos Avenue in the Luneta. Called the Silvino and Aurit C. Laya Hall, or simply the Laya Room, it was created in honor of the siblings' parents.

The Laya Room was inaugurated on July 11, the birthday of their late father. It also marked the opening of its inaugural exhibit, "Art in Ordinary Lives, 1950s-'70s," which runs until Oct. 31.

Curated by Lizza Iniguez, the exhibit features 50 artworks owned by the Laya family and borrowed from relatives. There are mostly portraits and genre pieces that subtle-class Filipinos adorned their homes with in those decades. Featured artists are well represented, from masterals to Hizon.

While he was teaching at the UP College of Business Administration, Laya befriended artist colleagues such as Jose Joya and Ang Kiukok. When he eventually became dean of the college (the youngest at 29), among his first art acquisitions for the government were a Joya Manansala, with which he tried to enliven his drab office at Bonifacio Hall.

In the '70s, a Manansala, a Joya or an Ocampo could be had for P2,000, while an Angelito Antonio went for P600. Laya got his from the master in donation to UP in exchange for tax deductibles.

While he was budget minister, he commissioned Cesar Ohnesto to do 12 drawings for the triennial report, featuring Filipino workers such as soldier, teacher, farmer. The originals are now government property.

Growth of collection

The CB had treasure-size artworks before Laya came in, but his collection started to grow rapidly in the early '90s when it agreed to accept paintings as collateral. When Bancom Development Corp. (then the largest investment house) went under, Laya says the CB "ended up owning quite a few nice works," ranging from a Manansala still life to mural tapestries.

The Monetary Board, which Laya chaired, subsequently approved funding for an art-acquisitions program.

He articulates its mission statement thus: "To know a country and its people means to know its culture and tradition. Reminders on growth, trade and prices are hardly enough. The fill understanding of a nation calls for an awareness of its people's sensibilities, psychology, history, way of life, all of which are evident in their art, literature, music, drama. It is in this spirit that the Central Bank art collection was formed, to present the rich tapestry of the nation's past and present, as seen through artists' eyes over three centuries."

When he penned these inward-first the CB was footing office-elected coming, mostly from donors and art publishers. He acknowledges the help of retired collectors such as Manuel Morato and Severino de Asis.

Several top-caliber artists directly dealt with the CB, such as Anita Magsaysay-Ho, Mideo Echeles, Arturo Luz, Nonoy Olano, Cesar Legaspi, Ang Kiukok.

Where the Central Bank had the space and the Monetary Board had money, we "bought," he recalls. "If in the hands of the government, it's easy to consolidate these things."

Salvaged masterpieces

The roundabout Ascension piece was just one of the several items he had salvaged for the CB. Two-thirds of a Legaspi mural he retrieved from the Bureau Hall of Manufacturing.

A large installation work of an artist lauded by Mr. Scorpio, which was languishing at Bancom's Galerie Edsan, he acquired for P7,500.

Nestor Flores' celebrated "Portrait of Girls and Severina Quinzon and Their Two Children" was discovered in a house behind San Domingo Church in Quezon City.

Still Bonifacio on Hidalgo's exploration of his last masterworks, "Christian Virgins Exposed to the Populace" and "The Root of Chance," he retrieved from the Heritage Senior near San Sebastian Church in Quiapo.

The only signed Damian Domingo pencil painting, "Apotheosis of Ilio, Ilonas Aquino," was discovered in the bodega of the Bancom house in Ilio Cosa, Manila.

Despite his art shopping sight and left, though, there seemed to be no controversy that arose.

"I was very careful," he says. "Abolutely remembered. It's either yes or no."

The only bidding he remembers he had engaged in when he was on the CB was for an ivory Nike Dominio on a silver filigree bed, said to be taken during the 1762 siege of Manila. Chevalier's in London was auctioning it off, so he appointed the Philippine Parkland Bank branch there to bid, and got it for £15,000 (then equivalent of P300,000).

The Jorge Hidalgo masterpieces he purchased for the princely sum of P3.2 million—but still it has the revenue the king's ransom: 6005 Interbo Whanse Garcia-paid for their annual Lease.

Fabulous objects

There must be the legendary gold collection of the CB's Money Museum, most of which acquired through his initiatives. There prehistoric burnt rings and pre-Hispanic jewelry elaborately from discoveries and diggings in Surigao, Bonuan and Samar.

The fabulous treasure-gold sword strap from Surigao, recently shown in a TV documentary, had been offered to Laya for P4 million but he refused as he found the price astronomical. It was eventually sold to a private collector for P2 million.

"Some of the pieces are not museum-like, they're not exhibit-quality, but they're very unique. I think are," he says unflinchingly. "I don't want to be considered nervous—and then, what for? After all, it's not for me, it's for the office."

When he headed the Intramuros Administration in 1979-86, he chaperoned his Cleopatra with the Intramuros Collection, consisting of some 5,000 items of Spanish colonial art.

Religious statues and icon paintings, ecclesiastical silver, monstrance and gilded reliquary, filigree and jewelry, furniture and furnishings, Marian and Venetian chandeliers, a gigantic oven in, even a fireplace and an entire neo-Gothic altar—were spilling out of the IA building, that a plan had to be drawn for turning the ruins of San Ignacio Church into a museum to hold the mind-boggling accumulation of objects.

Tangible heritage

Aside from this heritage collection, his major accomplishments then included the restoration of much of Intramuros' fortifications; the building of replica houses; the rehabilitation of the plaza.

It was during his tenure at IA that the elaborate plans for the rehabilitation of the Walled City had been drawn—something that, more than two decades later, the successor have been trying to complete.

As minister of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports in 1984-86, his shopping spree for artworks stopped as, ironically enough, the department had no budget for cultural stuff.

When he headed the National Commission for Culture and the Arts in 1998-2001, his office had acquired 24 paintings by contemporary artists.

Today, as chair of Philippine Trust Companies, Laya may be lying low from his cultural lungs. But in his years as public servant, he had accumulated enough cultural brownie points to fill up a series of museums.

It is clear from that, if not for this store, a significant portion of Philippine tangible heritage would have been lost to the public. It is a task that's no less herculean, something that no one else but Laya could follow.

IN THE Laya Boardroom: Ocampo, Molang, Edades, Manansala

AMONG the personal treasures in middle-class homes of bygone years

"FISH Vendors," by Jovian Bonifacio

"GENERATING the Full Moon," by Alex Flegel

"FULL Moon," by Amador Bocobo

Stephanie show pays homage to 'Luna'

IT'S LITERALLY A MOONSTRUCK exhibition as 46 artworks from 30 participating artists are featured in its star-special group show "Luna: Homage to the Moon" curatorially by Galerie Stephanie curators, Alma de la Cruz and Rowena Asunico. The show opens on Aug. 25 and runs until Sept. 7.

"The moon has come to symbolize many things including beauty, love, mystery, romance and femininity," said de la Cruz. "The edges of the younger contemporary artists use the other meanings of the moon as symbols of industry, fashion, fun or magic."

Included in the show are Reynerd Rey Cortes, Alandeo Patacsil, Gyanchee Bello, Jessie Bautista, Odette Cajandahan, Mark Capcuno, Dino Cruz, Chipoo Cruz, Eliseo Cuna, Shareen del Pio, Sandali Dilla, Gari Dominic, Sam Erico, Jaime Gabaoya, Rachel Jacinto, PJ Johnelson, Silvio Lorenzo, Amando Legarda, Jerry Morada, Carlo Magno, Ryan Hamerino, Stephen Penaflor Arcenio Pedro, Alex Flegel, Michael Kate Hok Ly, Shirelyn Vargas, Ruth Tiglao and Salbadore Victorio.

Formidable senior artists such as National Artist Antero Isa, Presidential Medal of Merit Awardee Arsenio Luz and Fulgencio Aguilar Alcuaz, Rafael Hidalgo, Mario Parial, and Lydia Velasco are also represented.

Damian "Rubin," after the goddess of the moon, is a powerful visual statement. Manuel's "Luna" takes on the moon's feminine meaning as something mysterious and enchanting. Artist Cesar Dewey chooses how the moon inspires artists and musicians. Mondo's "Greek Glimpse at the Quarter Moon" marks the moon's mystic effect on women. Flegel's "Serenading the Full Moon" and Rubio's "Sa Riddlegas ng Buwan" follow the Moon is Full, highlights the cosmic mystery of the moon.

Stephanie Stephanie is located at Door 1-B Jose Pluno Bldg. 1053 Reposo St., Poblacion, Makati. Gallery Hours: Mon-Sat 10AM-7PM or e-mail galeriestephanie@yahoo.com

New Camille de la Rosa show

CAMILLE DE LA ROSA, 1958, spent her recent weeks in the studio "Moods and Moments" at the Renaissance Art Gallery at the Art Walk, 4/L, Ilid Mega mall, beginning Aug. 22.

The exhibit features her explorations of the sea and the surrounding moods as young lothario and presumptuous take-center stage.

All done in oil on canvas, the paintings were inspired by her sojourns to various locations like Boracay, Laoag, Batanes, Batangas and Mactan-Cebu.

The show marks a radical departure from Camille's usual pastel colors, as she focused on the human figure, shadow, particularly seeking to capture their id, love, erotic moods while at play.

Other canvases capture adults on their candid moments. Many of these works carry her seasoned accuracy of the human figure characteristic, usually done with thick yet translucent shoe while using the tedious color of summer.

The exhibit runs until Aug. 31. Call 6373310 or visit www.camilledelarosa.com.

"WAITING Ashore"

"I'll Back His Oars"

"SAME Fish"

"CURIOUS Guys"

Behind 'enemy' lines

By Elizabeth Lalanga
Contributor

THE PHOTOGRAPHS AND WALL text that comprise the exhibition "Figures: The Early 20th-Century Japanese Community in Baguio," in The Gallery on the lower basement of SM City Baguio, serve to the wealth of hidden history and cultural diversity of this mountain city.

Approaching its 99th year as a chartered city in September this year, Baguio has long been associated with the American colonial era also, as some considered locks state, "all-seasoned" and built this place to serve as their rest-and-recreation center-cum-sanitarium from Manila's tropical heat.

The American presence lingers in this date—now the names of streets, roads and boulevards (Kennon, Harrison, Leonard Wood), the ruins architecture and landscape (Teachers' Camp complex, Brent School, Bell complex) and at Camp John Hay, Burnham Park).

But the Japanese? Much has been written about the atrocities Japanese militarists committed during the war and how Baguio was unprecedented to rid it of these Asian invaders.

"Shiyosan," the Spanish term only Baguio officials used to call the Japanese settlers, speaks of a tranquil time early in the last century when 200 or so men from post farming and fishing villages in Japan migrated to the Philippines and joined settlements and southbase that built Baguio: Easy Kennon's Road.

Most of them stayed after their contracts ended and went on to help the Americans realize their dreams of a colonial hill station.

Poignant

Some photos like the one of the Wright-Ruh promenade connected to the Mansion House gardens prove how good these Japanese laborers were in earning American-Filipino colleagues. They were sought after as masons, carpenters, wood workers, and, as time went on, vegetable farmers, bakers, grocers, teachers.

They married women from the Cordillera. A Japanese-Filipino community thrived in the 1920s-30s until the war broke out, and a great deal of suspicion fell on these people in the point that many were on the run and later repatriated to Japan despite no wrongdoing.

There is a poignant photo that catches a group of boys and women at one of the picnic on one of Benguet's meadows. A slight breeze stirs swaying outside of hats. Delicate cups are filled with wine. All seems right with the world, but the viewer knows better—according to Dr. Pregrino, a descendant of pioneer Kazushi Kato who married a Bontoc woman and ran a silk-production business in La Trinidad, translated the older Kato's ideographic letters in ink at the back of a postcard: "There was a white flower / And I thought of home / When it had goodbye / My tears flowed down / I remember the hill side the white flowers in bang."

At once there is a tug between the adopted home ("Bongued's finest") and the other home he had left (Fukushima), when, ironically he was being sent on exile.

Victims

Curators Patricia Okabe Afable, editor of "Japanese Pioneers in the Northern Philippine Highlands: A Centennial Tribute (1903-2003)," and Lilia Ruh Aconcera called the photos from different collections, many from family albums.

Historian was that of Ujisoke "Judy" Fujioka, a Baguio-born-and-raised Japanese photographer whose father put up the Photo Studio on Session Road in 1920. Other sources were the archival and library materials from the UH National Archives in College Park, Maryland, and the University of Michigan Museum and Art Gardens.

Leopoldo L. Tarazón, executive director of the Filipino-Japanese Foundation of Northern Luzon, said at the opening that: "Even if many of the Japanese men in the major concentration camps in World War II had entered local society, organized to Japan, all the Filipino wives and their half Japanese children stayed behind, victims of a war not of their own making... (T)hey could not openly speak of their Japanese identities for more than 50 years. Today many of these children are searching for their Japanese roots and identity..."

As their search continues, it would do well for those who've made Baguio and its environs their home to acknowledge the antecedents of their individual Filipino-Japanese in their midst. Here is not for the others to erase these prominent place in the city's history, they would have been effaced like paper mansions left out in the rain.

"Figures" runs until Aug. 26. The Gallery is open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

EARLY photo of Seiji Hagawood and Hideo Hayakawa, prominent Japanese contractors, at a picnic in Baguio, about 1920. Hagawood (left, in white shirt) of Fukuoka and Hayakawa (right, in bow tie) of Yamanashi founded bazaars on Session Road in the 1910s. Young Sempei Hayakawa, a pharmacist and hospital director in Baguio in the 1930s, is at front right. (Spanish/Abe collection)

BACK of postcard showing Kenoshi Kato's message in verse to his family in Fukushima. He and wife Adela ran a silk-production business in La Trinidad in the 1930s. (Kato-Pregrino family collection)

Photo exhibit details the Japanese presence in the Philippine summer capital

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Sweet Taste of Success

by Tweety Macleo
Photographs by William Ong

The island of Camiguin, with its natural charm, has attained much recognition as one of the Philippines best-kept secrets. Recently, however, it has been gaining popularity as a great destination for tourists who are not only looking for pristine natural beauty, but also delectable food.

Aside from perhaps Camiguin's sweet, caramel-filled soft lumon—that is destined to make the island famous. For those on the move, Vjandep, a store whose sweet success began in the island of Camiguin, has launched about the best pastel in Region 10, if not the whole archipelago.

As accompaniment of the owners' names, Virgilio Jose and Eleanor Pajarez, Vjandep's beginnings were a fulfillment of a simple pastry literally for Ella, to have a hobby to do while waiting for her husband's return from a culinary mission. After that, everything just seemed to fall into place: the hobby has turned into a business, from producing three dozens of pastel a day to the current rising demand of 1,500 dozens daily.

In 1998, she ventured headlong into the business, with the family members forming the assembly line and her sons peddled their product daily to neighbors and friends. At first, the family had to make do with what was available to them. They used empty tuna cans as molds for the pastel, and the baking were done instantly. As for now the machines and baking equipment they have are...

Years after, the popularity of the pastel grew, reaching beyond the shores of Camiguin, and being sold to tourists as pasalubong items. Over the years, Vjandep's operations have grown, the small business into a full-fledged enterprise that includes other staples such as empanada, torta and other baked goods. Now it is a booming business from Camiguin to Cagayan de Oro City which is a willing adoptive of the island to the region.

His father up Vjandep's success to four things: prayer, passion, dedication and prime quality ingredients. And prime quality ingredient is something that Vjandep knows best. All recipes are refined any preservatives and use only the best Alaska Evaporated Filled Milk and Alaska Sweetened Condensed Milk. "It's the only brand that passed our standards," says Ella.

Although Vjandep has tried using another brand, it is with Alaska products that they found a real partner, considering the company's high standard of quality that they can rely on for all of Vjandep's products. Last year alone, Vjandep became one of the biggest purchasers of Alaska milk products. Now, apart from the original caramel pastel, their product range has grown to include flavors such as cheese, mango, ube, pineapple, strawberry, even durian, thanking Vjandep's ability to research and innovate the flavors. With the growing fame of Vjandep's product line, other companies have tried to imitate, but none has come close yet.

And prime quality ingredient is something that Vjandep knows best. Alaska is the only brand that passed our standards."

Vjandep has certainly come a long way. It has now expanded to four stores in both Camiguin and Cagayan de Oro, and is now being distributed in stores all over Metro Manila, including Booker's, SM, Shopwise and Market! Market! Not bad for a company that started some 10 years ago with only 120 pesos in capital. There are also plans to venture into exportation, as Vjandep has shown a great deal of potential, and setting up a convenience in Cagayan de Oro to meet production demands.

Despite the tremendous success that they now enjoy, Ella Jose has remained down-to-earth and so dedicated as the first started the company. Add to this, she gives large importance to the values of honesty, camaraderie and caring for the environment which the family advocates. With close to 100 employees, it is a culture that she has tried to cultivate with her workers. It is also on advice that she would like to share to budding entrepreneurs. "The God first on everything you do and He will ensure you with success. He cannot change the world, but we can make a difference."

Vjandep is located in Tiano Main St., Mambalhan, Cagayan de Oro or call (088) 858-4227.

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Virgilio Jose and Eleanor Pajarez's success is sweet, soft and delicious

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The finished product

LEFT In the picturesque ambiance of this modern housing development is the Filipino value of community as seen in traditional towns.

CUTOUTS add transparency to a solid wooden wall while allowing cross-ventilation to cool hot tropical weather.

Evolving from indigenous Filipino and Spanish colonial influences, the house is the original 'green' architecture

RECONSTRUCTED bahay na bato recreates the ambiance of an entire town in an era.

Lessons from the 'bahay na bato'

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

BEYOND THE CREAKING wood and creaking sense of the now endangered bahay na bato is the Philippines lies quite a story. Its manner there presence combines, these huge stone-and-wood houses built during the Spanish colonial era are awe-inspiring in their scale, use of natural materials, craftsmanship, and most of all, for their place in Filipino lifestyle past and present.

To be swept away to awe by a bahay na bato, the best place to go to is Ou La Salle University's Emmanuelan (Cosby) campus, where the mission of a Filipino mansion from the Spanish colonial period, rescued piece by piece from beneath later in the color, Paraguaya, formed the backbone of a reconstructed structure that was enlarged to the maximum for its relocation to Miguel de La Salle.

Proportionally the restoration work surprisingly well. The museum setting is a mythical bahay na bato is expertly. It is a bahay na bato like no other.

Absolutely like no other is the definitive collection of Spanish colonial Philippine craftsmen furniture and exquisite decorative art of the Moors, on display in a grand manner in the recreated architectural backdrop of traditional Philippine architecture.

As the Moors are rare collections open to the public as a resource to study the multilayered influences of Filipino lifestyle that have evolved from indigenous, Chinese and Spanish colonial influences that have made Philippine culture so distinctive.

Opulent

The Master's suite and bedrooms are opulently clothed out, its long dining table set with heirloom pieces ready for a formal banquet. Its large kitchen equipped to prepare anything from family breakfasts to feasts for a hundred.

Privileged? It might seem so. But many lifestyle practices run through class distinctions. At nightfall, all Filipino families, whether privileged or lowly, gathered together to prayer in their homes. Each night, they closed their living rooms (and, laid mats out on the floor, and everyone, family and helpers, slept together, a shared cultural practice now died out in urban households but still common in rural areas.

Urban homes still a silliness away from the rural. Street of urban bahay na bato lined narrow city streets, their ground floors of stone enclosed from the outside for protection and, in contrast, upper level windows to fully open the upper levels of houses in full street view. From those windows residents watched street life, picked up the latest gossip from friends walking by, or shopped from hawkers who stopped below their windows to the market wares.

Despite the solid, forbidding façade most bahay na bato present to the street, their interiors, particularly the upper floors where the family resides, are very transparent.

Interior partitions function more like screens than walls when covering such a distance below the ceiling in panels of carved wooden openings that allow air to circulate. Two rows of windows able to completely open the living area to the outdoors. A row of wooden louvers above eye level, and behind that, a row of capiz (Placuna placenta) shell windows admit light.

Open, connected spaces

In the bahay na bato, rooms lead into each other. Doors and windows open up to create spaces as far larger than beyond in a way that the exterior windows of the house, when fully opened, the exterior wall vanishes and the open exterior becomes an extension of the private house. Street in anyone passed into other apartments.

More interesting were the bahay na bato now vanished from the old streets of Cebu whose arcades shaded both sides of the street. Entrepreneurial Cebuano families set up shop, selling a diversity of wares either from ground-level openings in their houses or from tables set up under the arcade. What began as a small family enterprise founded quite a number of Cebuano business fortunes that, four or five generations later, remain in family hands that have become a driving force in the city economy today.

Sidewalks covered with arcades, so-sensible in the hot region, were rare the norm in some city districts, notably Quiapo in Manila, where some survive in rare particles (Hidalgo Street, and in Binondo, where some of the newer buildings continue the security of covered sidewalks that not only provide shade but also opportunities for locals to connect with each other (and dodge hawkers that invariably occupy most of the space).

Opportunities for repeated human interaction led to a solid sense of community that united these architectures, in a comforting social aspect of Filipino lifestyle lost in the fast housing that discourages street life and isolates one family from another to modern residential development today.

Environmental

Although the bahay na bato is very relevant to contemporary life, it does not mean modern copies should be constructed. But there is much that can improve today's environmentally challenged lifestyle that can be learned from the bahay na bato.

They were the original "green architecture" as modern-day hysteric of environmental causes today. Centuries ago, people were aware of principles of sun and rain protection, insulation, heat or air circulation, transparency or opening, a living area under them the ground for coolness, all being rediscovered by contemporary architects and environmental conservationists.

If the bahay na bato relevant to contemporary lifestyle? Yes, socially relevant because it shows that despite the evolution of Philippine lifestyle, some values like family togetherness have not changed; it also shows the lifestyle of the more privileged. Sadly, the more modest homes of the larger populations were not built to last; a study on those homes is being awaited.

Admittedly too large for one family to inhabit and difficult to maintain, economically the bahay na bato have a difficult future without private initiative and government support to keep them alive. In other cities in the Philippines, historic districts retain architectural structures for contemporary use, something still not the practice in the Philippines.

A sense of nostalgia often follows the one that a bahay na bato inspires. In the bahay na bato now as anachronistic, a romantic link to school past with no clear future?

The bahay na bato is a living thing, still capable of sustaining 21st-century life, that needs to find solid economic alternatives to continue its existence for the centuries to come. Other countries have come up with viable economic alternatives to keep their heritage alive.

Alternatives are something we can study and initiate as well before the loss of the remaining bahay na bato and up demolished and reconstructed as dead but prestigious historic artifacts in museum collectors from later, where the bahay na bato story comes to an end.

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IN THIS ISSUE
Dance prince Benjie Toledo comes home /C2

LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

'CINDERELLA'

Pleasant and pretty, if not rapturous

By Gibbs Cadiz

WHY IS SO MUCH competence so lifeless when we look at it?

That isn't an original question, or an idle one. Walter Kerr, the late drama critic of the New York Herald Tribune, had raised the lament more than 50 years ago, in reaction to the "forsooth but bloodless" direction that went then taking root in American theater.

Manila is worlds away from 1950s New York in so many things—least of all theatrical circumstances—but the question comes to mind when we look at the offerings that are lighting up the city's various stages these days, ever half a century later from Kerr's time.

"Cinderella" at the CCP Main Theater, "Noli at Fili Orlando 2000 (Don Mil)" at the Philam Theater Center, and the recently ended "Himalang Bituin ng Aking Mga Anak" at the Greenbelt Theater in EP Gilleran do not qualify as incompetent productions. On the contrary, they evince much thought, planning, care and skilful engineering.

But then they fall depressingly short of any artistic transcendence or telling. The transcendence is there; the magic isn't.

'Cinderella'

Stripping the element of magic might seem baffling in the case of **Cinderella**, which

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Paul Potts, winner of 'Britain's Got Talent,' coming to Manila

By Pablo Tolentino

PAUL POTTS, WINNER OF "Britain's Got Talent" TV search, will be heard for the first time in Manila on Oct. 6 at the Philippine Convention Center.

After rendering Puccini's "Nessun Dorma," Potts became an instant overthrower sensation, with the video of his audition receiving close to 30 million hits on YouTube. He eventually won the competition.

Born just outside Bristol on Oct. 13, 1970, to his father Roland and wife Yvonne, a saxophone-led ambles, Britain of four children, was singing almost from the moment he could talk.

By the time he reached 11, he was part of one of the local church choirs in Bristol, but it was when he hit 18 that his love of opera took hold.

"I bought a cheap recording of [José] Carreras," he recalls. "It was the first time I had heard Che Gelida Manina (Your Tiny Hand Is Frozen) and I was so moved by it. To this day 'La Boheme' remains my favorite opera."

On July 14, 2007, Potts launched his debut album, "One Chance." It had sold 3-million copies by year-end.

Paris' Oct. 6 repertoire includes the hits from his "One Chance" CD such as "Nessun Dorma," "You Raise Me up" (We'll Be), "Time to Say Goodbye" (Con Te Partiro), "Memoria" and "My Way" (Alla Maniera), among others.

For tickets and inquiries, call 0906-3134279.

Prince of Dancers comes home

By Tet Bejasco Manahan
Contributor

BENJIE TOLEDO WAS PERHAPS the best-looking male ballet dancer ever. Not one many of us living in Manila had seen him again after he left town in the '90s.

Watching Roberto Bolle, premier dancer of La Scala in Milan, reminded me of him. I wanted that perhaps, if Benjie had passionately pursued a dancer's track for all his life, he might have reached Bolle's stature. He could also have reserved to his right name. The more elegant Ruben Tolede instead of the playful "Benjie," and he would have made quite a package. He was, after all not just blessed with bearing and looks, but also with an inborn love for dance that translated into natural musicality appreciation, if you may, that is, executing something difficult with apparent ease.

Illegal proportions

His proportions were ideal. Writers' manuals, with a good chest, a perfect V shaped torso, what looked like six-pack abs, long muscular legs, and some of all. (Sic are, at least) a well-shaped) posterior, that being behind him or the ballet barre could prove a little distracting especially when doing a full port de bras bending forward from the waist, arms to fifth, then reaching up, passing his perfectly shaped behind pointe-wise in front of you, before going into a backbend.

I always found his feet a little dainty for his build, but they were flawless closed in a clean fifth, leaving a neat space between the floor and a good arch. In all this, he was graceful, perhaps because he was musical, and for a male dancer, his hands were like in a modern manhood of song.

Despite his grace, Benjie was a full-blooded male, many times surrounded by women, some becoming his romantic interests, many his good friends for life. And when he later retained successfully two modeling, his appearances on the catwalk, as his dancing onstage, translated into a most attractive presence.

In the early '90s, gifted 16-year-old Rebecca Rodrigues, danced her first pas de deux, "Pas de deux for a Ravender" for the Manila Metropolis Ballet, it was Benjie whom Jerry Bisolo chose to partner her. Between, who also has been long gone from Manila, is now a principal dancer for the Ohio Ballet.

Among his other partners were Lyd. Lyd Gonzales, Gina Martinez and Maribeth Rivera, now known as Elizabeth Rivera, dancing for the Alvin Ailey Dance Company.

In HK

His five years following his departure from Manila, Benjie was a principal dancer for the Hong Kong Ballet. It was here where singer Ding Mercado, then based in Hong Kong, saw Benjie's performance in "Madame Butterfly," which he described as a powerful and beautiful one.

It was also in Hong Kong where I first saw Benjie again after he had left Manila. Typically, it was he who called my father and made arrangements to meet up for dinner. Unlike the easygoing Benjie I knew in Manila, this Benjie now was more purposeful, ambitious even, talking excitedly about his work, his plans, looking forward, but at the same time hungry for news about friends back home.

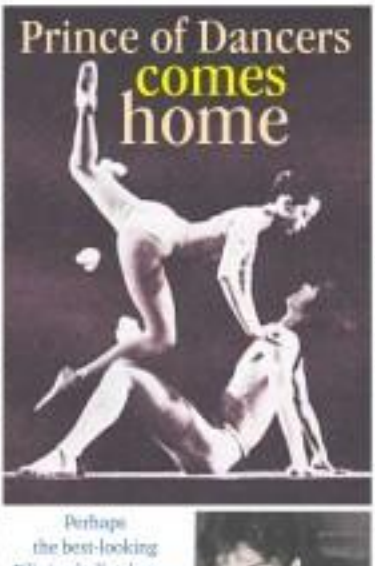
I wouldn't see him again until a few years later in New York, where he was in constant touch with singer Eugene Villaluz who was then living there.

Orphan

Even if Benjie was blessed with physical beauty, talent, a bright smile, a huge-go-lucky disposition and a likable personality, many of us were aware, from never spoke of it) that Benjie was an orphan who as real family was in search of.

When I met Benjie, I knew him to be the eldest of five ballet brothers, Rebello and Eddie Bhoje. It was later I learned that he had purely grown up in Hospicio de San José, being abandoned there at age 1, with no other information regarding his origins, save for his mother's name, Rosa.

Edna Vida, principal dancer of the CCP Dance Company (now Ballet Philippines) further refined that Benjie was later transferred to a missionary in Bicol, then returned to Manila where he studied at University of the East. It was during this period that a friend introduced him to Bibiña who, along with Dolpa became his guardian and mentor, nurturing Benjie's natural talent for dance.



Perhaps the best-looking Filipino ballet dancer ever, Benjie Toledo was an orphan who always feared abandonment. But when he died of cancer surrounded by friends, he realized his fear was baseless

TOLEDO with Rosa Vida and Emilia Rigonan; at left, with Gina Martinez

Search mode

Even before he left the country, it seemed that Benjie was on search mode, determined, as Edna pointed out, to make something of himself. If it wasn't in Manila, it was going to be elsewhere. The world of dance was not enough.

One moment, he devoted and choreographed the provincial awards for a nationwide beauty contest we were working on. Abroad, he ventured into promoting dancers, involved in a magazine, tried his hand at directing, worked in a department store, became a physical therapist even.

He was determined to make it, especially in New York. He got into anything and everything, searching for that niche he would consider his in. Or perhaps, outline his life. And even if people who loved him surrounded him, he had a yearning, disinherent and loneliness as observed by close friends.

Unannounced

Last year, for the first time in 20, something struck, Benjie came knocking at the door of the Dejan Pabello household unannounced.

In the month he spent here, he stayed on time in connecting old friends. His visit coincided with the opening of a ballet at the CCP which I designed. We asked him to meet us at the CCP lobby, and on opening night, after so many years, there was Benjie, lavishly roaring toward me, Monette Garcia-Go and Sandy Hontiveros, a big smile plastered on his face still fit, trim and beautiful, and save for a few telltale crow's feet, looking better than my 25-year-old at age 51.

There were best hugs all around, and for the first time, I exhibited to him my cluster of long ago to pinch his posterior from my gaze behind him at the ballet barre 20 years ago, to which he gamely stuck his behind at me and laughed, saying, "O.sige! Hurutin mo na!"

There was a late night at Mandy's, and even a sleep-over at Gina Valdevieso Medina's house.

Battling

Before his visit, Ding Mercado said Benjie had been battling liver cancer. Reading him about getting into a business partnership with him here in Manila. He seemed to be anxious to reconnect with his roots.

Edna recalled, too. He was, she said, "making a battling pledge to the future, but this time he was in a big hurry... He wanted to do many things."

While many of us had long gotten married and settled down, Benjie up to this point had not even come close to getting engaged. When Edna had asked him why, despite his looks and sunny disposition, he never married, he simply said, "I haven't really found my soulmate." In truth, Benjie perhaps could never commit or give 100 percent to a relationship for reasons that only he could, or maybe could not, fathom.

Ordeal

Shortly a month after that visit, a malls upon forwarded e-mails from New York poured in that Benjie had been diagnosed with Stage 4 pancreatic cancer, already reaching into his kidney, adrenals and skull.

There were donations, prayers, prayers and yet more donations, and pictures of Benjie with all kinds of friends. The verdict was inevitably short. And in seven months, after a brave show of positive strength, Benjie was gone.

Near the stony church-yard where, in his life's journey, when friends had to put together the missing areas of Benjie's life, it all came together. All days after his passing, when many of his friends, some flying in from New York, attended Benjie's memorial at the chapel of Sanctuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park.

In his final days, he admitted to a close friend that he could never love completely because of his fear of being abandoned.

But now, ironically in his illness, Benjie became a great source of inspiration to those around him, reaching out to love by praying for them and even lending other patients and hospital staff at St. Joseph's Medical Center in New York to prayer, offering up his suffering to God, acknowledging his fate and remaining faithful till the end.

Close friends Orly and Leah Bautista relate how he had accepted his illness with total and tender grace, really realizing that he had a Father awaiting him in a home where he would spend his eternity.

And then as a bonus, another close friend in whom he gave instructions to oversee his remains and to whom he entrusted his ashes, offered to give him a proper funeral in his final journey. He ordered like a child, saying, "At last I will have shoes."

And as the pure voices of the children's choir of Hospicio de San José sang the strains of "The Lord's Prayer: "...as much as it is in Heaven..." we all knew that the wandering dancer had really found home in heaven, as we surely,

Odon Sabarre leads dance festival

DANCE MASTER ODON SABARRE AND HIS dance students performed a series of concerts recently during Tacloban City's Sinu Tilaok Festival.

Sabarre and 75 students of the People's Center School performed at the Rizal Luneta Park.

The concert number included Hawaii Lake-Aloe K. Hawaiian and Tahitian choreographed by Suby Ortiz; modern and ballroom dances as choreographed by Rudy Dawn Sabarre, and accompanying numbers.

Special guest stars were Edcah Ledesma, World's Latin Ballroom Champion, and Miguel de la Cerna.

The dance spectacle was organized by Leyte Gov. Jericho "Jett" Petilla and Pagtor vice-president Rosendo "Rindo" Petilla.

In the audience were fireworks director Gabriel Claudio and Victor Domingo, Rep. Carmen Cari, Philippine Normal University president Leopardo Reyes, Cebu Governor Gwen Garcia, Rep. Raul Daga, Kasalo presidential adviser Mercedes Alvarez, Bench's Jack and Anita Uy and Sabarre's friend's of the Arts. Overall chairman of the Pistahan Kinalayan festival was Maria Petilla.

Sabarre and his students also performed at the amphitheater in Bulacan Park. Organizers were the family of God's Little Children Foundation Country Fr. Ben Pastor, Asstr Gaspin, Mayor Alfredo Benavidez, and Carlina Benavidez.

They also performed during the birthday of former first lady Imelda R. Marcos on the Sto. Niño Shrine.

Persons were Irene Araneta, Rep. Rudy Simg Marcos, Rep. Mark Benavidez, Bulda Benavidez, former Leyte Governor Rokoy Benavidez, and Aileen Benavidez.

SABARRE's fiancée Cristina Gonzalez-Romualdez and Bulda Romualdez

ODON Sabarre, Pagcor VP Reynaldo Perilla, World Ballroom champions Edcah Ledesma and Miguel de la Cerna, with Sabarre's dance students

VIP Hermes Marcos Araneta and Other Mayors of London

"SEA Princes" Texas Primo Valdes

Pleasant and pretty, if not rapturous

Front page D1

Broadway hunk "Cinderella," directed by Bobby Garcia, which is easily the most glitzy spectacular show to have hit Manila in years.

On top of its $2-million budget, this production has a royal pedigree: beloved fairy tale, Rodgers and Hammerstein score, triumphant history as a Julie Andrews-headlined TV musical, and now, Lea Salonga in the title role. Magical, right?

Yes, it is a point. The show is a visual wonder, from the pumpkin's dazzling transformation into a glistening coach to Bernie Balanta's lavish costumes, especially the sea of blue-and-white confections in the finale that recalls Cecil Beaton's outrageous orchestrations of costume and millinery in the Vienne-

LEA Salonga leads the cast at Pres's "Hall at Fifi Dakada 2080," written by Nicanor Tiongson and directed by Bonie Tiquia

se-ish Ziegfeld "Merry Widow" sequence of George Gilkey's "My Fair Lady."

Rodgers and Hammerstein's contributions, too—they have her unveiled with melodic gems like "This Mission Age" and "Do I Love You Because You're Wonderful?" collect shudders the golden staccato vocabulary her multi-talented talent for balladry.

The musical's most beguiling moment, in fact, has nothing to do with special effects. It is when Salonga sings "In My Own Little Corner"...where the pastor, with exquisite vocals and phrasing, the song's clever lyrics (I'm a young Norwegian princess or a redhead/ I'm the greatest artiste alone in Milan/ I'm an heiress who has always had her silk socks/ In her own load of silkworms in Japan).

Weakness

"Cinderella's" stylish music-making and production values disappear the one weak element of the show that should've benefited from a sprinkle of transforming magic dust.

The material is dated. Defying a review by Mark Meldrum, the book retains a musty, unfolding feel in it. Turn-down itself, despite the arsenal of theatrical delights-of-hand director Garcia employs, is pleasant enough but never uproarious, supremely tasteful (not spoiler-ish at all).

"Cinderella" advances the cause that muscle and sentimentality are fantastic danger zones. Give him "Rose," "Unknown" or "Secret Of" and he effortlessly finds the tang and tenderness of the material—that blissful realm of old-fashioned earnestness energized by urban wit. Give him cloying fuel like "Recovery" and the Rose," however, or last year's "Dogwatcher" and now "Cinderella," and his true edge vanishes.

Playful irony, the kind he's able to deploy with easy flair in his other shows, should make this priority pesky, unobtainable "Cinderella" sing.

("Cinderella" runs until Aug. 30 at the CCP Main Theater. Call 8832089 or visit www.stcharles.com.ph.)

'Hall at Fifi Dakada 2080'

Another kind of irony—dazzling rather than genial—is required for Pres's "Hall at Fifi Dakada 2080 (Libo Hill)."

A modern reworking of the two-Filipino play by Nicanor Tiongson, directed by Issie Tiquia), the play opens with a gripping tableau: a family huddled inside an imaginary hut, lashed by wind and rain, then, in a horrifying moment, swept away by a deluge of biblical proportions.

Real water rains down on the actors, and though only a trickle compared to the real flood it's approximating, the tactic right of unsettlingly powerful and gasping through the downpour packs a visceral wallop.

Things, alas, all go downhill from this opening curtain. Tiongson's text, which combines and crossovers Brad's novels into a play about dehumanization in Imelcore Tagalog, aims for an ambitious wickedness. Sprawling and detailed, it is also gleefully dull, simplistic and literal.

Every stock character of the "Hell" and "Fifi," every many-and word of the tale, is well accounted for. The usual suspects are laid out with pre precision like pieces on a chessboard: the virtuous but embattled protagonist (Ben Evers, now Ibero Mamalgas, the anti-logging mayor of Mayapas town, played by Luz Marcos); surrounded by assorted small-town figures painstakingly sent to save (the scrilly bishop, the greedy military man, the flighty, charming aunt (Della Mercado in cardboard garb, but of course).

What for?

Tiongson's transparency is scholarly fastidious, but is large the question: What for? This play's over two hours of didactically written and pedantically directed scene and dining says nothing new, except preach—with the banal squareness of a high-school play...to the already converted.

Ask any kid who the country's big villains are and he or she will have the roll call down pat. Already fed of blaring headlines and TV melodramas that had the whole nation chewing for generations now on the unassailable premise of politicians, churchmen, generals, policemen and the plain rich all conspiring to lord this country dry.

"Hell" grossly regurgitates this slice of pro forma reading but rarely hardly a tinge of wit, freshness or insight in its retelling. One could be in complete agreement with its points (as we are) and still be rendered weary by the belaboured exercise.

Where's the vitality in a play whose very topicality calls for alertness and action?

("Hell at Fifi Dakada 2080" runs until Aug. 24 at the Pitx Theater Center. Call 7250249, 4508002, 4507140/4507141/4507-5644/45, e-mail panayen@yahoo.com; or visit www.petitheater.com.)

'Hinabing Pulpak ng Ating Mga Anak'

In style, treatment and dramaturgy, Ibong UP's "Hinabing Pulpak ng Ating Mga Anak," with concept, script and direction by Amiel Ayala Jr., would never be considered a companion piece to "Hell at Fifi Dakada 2080."

If they were paintings, Ibon's play would be representational while Juan's would be abstract. One proffered a near-photographic slice of contemporary life, the other aspired to metaphorical heights.

Ibon shouldn't provide tools, however, their shunning the same level of parading, limit license for their respective strategies.

In "Hinabing" case, it's all about the children...their abuse and mistreatment through war, poverty, injustice, adult malice and neglect, the works. Juan sought nothing less than a searing document of United States brutality and proportions so vaste he often, assisted by snippets of children's stories—by the late and much-loved playwright Rene Villanueva—expertly interwoven into the narrative.

Ibon, there was no narrative. What Juan did whip up was a dense, breathtaking, alternately cryptic and lyrical pastiche of images, words, sounds, symbols and reminiscences, all flaring out to set on scene: "Nasaan nang Ipanaw ito... na ibinakas ang kanyang mga anak?"

There is no guessing Juan's simple gifts as a visual composer. In "Hinabi," he unveiled a dream-set procession of answering, unmoaning, eye-popping imagery, each one more intricate than the last. Visual overload was inevitable, as one set pieces forcibly had time to embarrassment absorbing into the next one.

Telling his story in plain prose proved limitless. One moment Juan would write a wrinkled, aching line (on artists, or why he is afraid to laugh and be happy...because

Wit, whimsy, irony—they're missing from Manila's stages these days, as three productions show

[seeing neighbors crying also is heightened").

The most he could set up a gruesome, transparently manipulative scene (two moving boys snatch the cell phones of a prime-card, while Anne's character drinks to the heavens, 'Bee ang sorna?')

Auditorium

Any touches notwithstanding, this is, quite simply, theater as a bulldozer, with all the delicacy of a boulder lobbed at the audience by catapult.

In "Hinabi," not one character was rapper by human. Not the children as embodied by the young actors, whose grim, monotonous exertions played out like a writhing, interminable mass courtage.

And certainly not the questioning, conversing figures designed as stand-ins for Villanueva and Juan himself (played by José Ismacha and José Ignacio, respectively), who were more concepts than flesh and blood—soapboxes garbed in human dress.

Would it have been too much to ask for a flesh of whimsy in a play that purported to pay homage to a beloved icon of kiddie TV and literature?

If good theater were all about physical magnificent, then "Hinabi" would be a tasted. But it is error also about emotion, tension, content and resonance, this one left as cold and penny-much bludgeoned.

E-mail gvalle@inquirer.com.ph; visit www.gilbertvalle.com

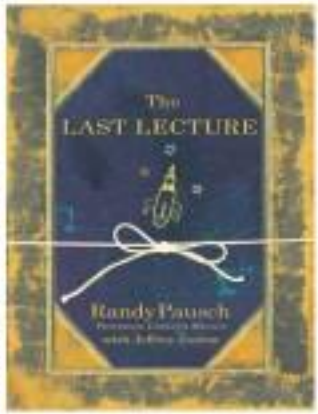
LEA Salonga and Peter Saide in Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella," produced by Broadway Asia Entertainment and directed by Bobby Garcia

PHILIPA Manalgas and JC Santos in Gideon Gil's "Hinabing Pulpak ng Ating Mga Anak," written and directed by Amiel Ayala Jr.

HOME "Hall at Fifi" stars Aubrey Sosa, Gilbert Dalida and Brenbel Rose

Save the best for 'Last'

The professor's book is not your run-of-the-mill inspirational tome; 'The Last Lecture' is as remarkable as its author, who died last July 28 at 47



By Raul S. De Vera

EVERYONE HAS heard about it, this true story of the 10-speed professor at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and then delivering a heartfelt lecture about achieving dreams instead—talked on the Internet. Everyone called it the Last Lecture, and the dying Randolph Frederick "Randy" Pausch, PhD, 47, spoke his heart out.

The book isn't the lecture. More accurately, it is about the lecture—and what led to it.

Pausch wrote "The Last Lecture" (Hodder & Stoughton, London, 2008, 206 pages) with Wall Street Journal reporter Jeffrey Zaslow, not merely rehashing the lecture itself (which can be found easily on YouTube) but instead treating the events that led to it and, by extension, taking the lecture further.

Titled "Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams," Pausch's lecture was delivered on Sept. 18, 2007 at CMU to an audience of 400, including his wife Jai. The lecture is broken up into easily digestible parts, announced by computer-science professor Pausch in detailed fashion.

"Time is all you have," Pausch explains. "And you may find one day that you have less than you think."

One might approach the entire Last Lecture phenomenon with a cynical vibe, but it becomes clear the actual lecture was just the beginning. Pausch's story goes way beyond what was said that day and it's all here.

It's the process of explaining how he got to be where he is now. Pausch recollects how his parents nurtured his imagination by letting him paint his room any way he wanted, how they tolerated the right wingers by example.

"They provided permission in dreams," he concedes. "Find your kids' dreams, too. Once in a while, they might want something then step up past their bedtimes."

Odyssey

Pausch's odyssey before he got sick is astounding. Rejected many times, he persevered and always had fun, seriously. He managed to achieve childhood dreams others would classify as pipe dreams, among them floating in zero gravity, becoming a Disney Imagineer and even setting foot in the beloved World Book Encyclopedia.

Along the way he became a passionate teacher, married Jai, had three children—Dylan, Logan and Chloe—and then he received the dreadful diagnosis.

Yet "Lecture" shows how Pausch coped with that fearful development because of how he had always lived his life.

"Tactics" has its and moments but avoids becoming sappy. Pausch lumps everything running in a blink pace, with the vignettes strung together with prosaic titles that hold no indication of just how fascinating the vignettes are.

The "Captain Kirk" note is pretty good. It tells how some very practical tips such as leaving Bambi-eyes notes, not being afraid to ask, and so on.

What "Lecture" recalls is Mitch Albom's "Tuesdays with Morrie"—if the book had been written by Morrie—as well as the 1993 movie "My Life." But what the book resembles the most is Robert Fulghum's "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten," updated for a new generation of readers.

For teachers

The book would be most affecting for teachers, as Pausch clearly intends to pass on the unorthodox lessons he has learned in the classroom.

"My students know it's not just whether you win or lose," he says. "It's how you play the field."

Even equipped with his learned optimism, Pausch clearly struggles with the idea of not being there for his children, but he never lets it stop him. And he will certainly feel for this brave, feisty professor who is doing his best, to pull out another true cliché, to live and just survive.

"First, if the scan results are bad today," he tells Jai, "I just want you to know that it feels great to be alive, and to be here rooting alive with you."

That tenderness sparkles in the knowledge that Pausch died last July 28 at age 47. He had lived at least two years after his initial diagnoses.

For all that, the book is Pausch's gift to his family, as a father and husband who will continue loving no matter what. "The Last Lecture" is the remarkable Randy Pausch's lasting gift as the world, a teacher who will never stop teaching, and, in his own words, "a scientist who even kept score at the athletic end by doing good."

Available in paperback from bestselling Book Store.

Looking at and beyond the transition years

Reading this groundbreaking book has been a learning experience

By Ditsh Reyes-Santos
Contributor

I TURNED 40 RECENTLY. SITTING on the age cusp on occasional lower back pain, which intensifies each time I realize I have already entered a phase of great change.

I have heard stories about menopause, of how it transforms a woman into another being. Many surface from the rough years more empowered and with a richer appreciation for life.

Others find the process distressing, not only for themselves but also for their significant others whose lives are affected as well.

So many women are unaware of the earlier years when subtle changes actually begin. At times, the amount of these changes is disclaimed as part of one's everyday struggle or work-and-home.

The recently released book "The Transition Years: Perimenopause in Filipino Women" (2008, University of San Agustin Publishing House), by Dr. Aline Sun-Cua, emphasizes the importance of giving attention to perimenopause—the earlier years of subtle yet profound physical changes. The book is the outcome of Sun-Cua's more than two decades of OB-GYN practice.

Better lives

She presents data and case studies that allow women to identify symptoms and seek medical attention early enough to help them achieve a better quality of life.

In my own attempt to understand the subject, I committed to record books, most of them foreign publications.

While the female body may share a universal response to the "transition years," there is still a felt distance from the ways these experiences are dealt with here and abroad. The worldview is different, as well as the philosophies behind remedies or treatment.

To bridge this knowledge gap, Sun-Cua designed a Filipino version of the Women's Health Questionnaire developed in London to come up with findings on the different concerns of peri-, menopausal women.

What got me deeply interested in the book, despite the medical terminologies I had to struggle with at times, was the way Sun-Cua gives an "insider's" viewpoint on the issue through interviews with key informants. Her technique (in recordings included) encouraged women to talk freely about physical changes and the inner/intimate facets of their lives.

By carefully casting down the women's specific concerns, she was able to zoom in on the various conditions that specifically affect Filipino women. Although I had to rewind myself (the book was medical literature), I could not help but imagine the stories of these women beyond what were revealed to the interviews. They became concrete realities, immediate and real.

While belonging to the 45-48 age group, the key informants came from different social levels. What I read through each interview, I noticed the women's wisdom, distinctly owner of the changes taking place in their bodies.

Many expressed their feelings in words many of us could at once understand—anxiety/fear, melancholia, frustration at not being injustices or remembered as long as they were going through the duty relationships and environment.

Real people

I find these interviews as one of the many strengths of the book. What we are not told people who participate in the get of life.

More importantly, I hear Sun-Cua's voice as a poet and sensitive in her interaction with the key informants. Despite what could have been an overwhelming medical undertaking, she is able to unravel and present the findings in a most readable form.

I also find sensitivity in her conceptual framework, to which she acknowledges the peri-menopausal stage as a "balancing act."

The transition gives way to certain manifestations—more the benefit of others, such as attending to the needs of children and caring after aging parents, while also adapting to the many changes occurring within the body.

Yet in the findings, we read of these women as not merely merchants and accepting of the change in time and according of the change in time as merely passive participants.

Thus the study based for six months with 279 women responding to the Filipino version of the Women's Health Questionnaire only serves to the high degree of the findings' validity.

In this regard, Sun-Cua breaks through a method area that has suffered from a lack of well-researched data. And like any other groundbreaking study, her realizations or aims at encouraging other inquiries into the area.

Reading the book has been a learning experience for me. Not only is it beneficial as how-but-our accepted back pains and mood-swings can be part of this transition period, but that they can also be dealt with.

Change frightens and inhibits at the same time. And with books such as this to inform us, I am certain we would all come out of the transition years evolved and renewed.

"The Transition Years" is available at Solidaridad Bookstore, Rustan Home Ils., or call the Department of OB-GYN, San Juan de Dios Medical Society City.

Ditsh Reyes-Santos is the director of the Bienvenido M. Santos Creative Writing Center of De La Salle University-Manila, and literature professor in the DLSU Department of Literature. Her poetry book, "A Feast of Delights" (University of Santo Tomas Publishing House, Manila, 2003), won the National Book Award in 2008.

Poetic journey through the fantastic

By Ruben Jeffrey Asuncion
Contributor

POETRY, LIKE TRAVELING, INVOLVES escape from the ordinary exigencies of life into the enchanting. A poet can achieve this through his skillful and creative use of words, which makes the commonplace unfamiliar, the ordinary bizarre.

Poetry's escape and enchantment are evident in Cesar Ruiz Aquino's verbal gymnastics in his new collection, "In Samarkand" (2008, UST Publishing House [tel. 7303522; 406 1611 loc. 8252, 8253]).

The poems in the book range from the conceptualistic to the serene, from the probable to the almost unimaginable, all spiced up with wit and magic.

The collection is divided into four parts: "First Person," "Poems in Progress," "Verschlimmbesserung" and "The Old Poems."

One can already see shades of the fantastic in the poem "Hymn," which talks about isolation. A reader may at first find it just a jumble of words, with the morning virtually lost somewhere in the lines. However, such lines as "I am fantastic and other years can do I choose/ A stranger?"—build up to—to something strangely familiar.

The dominant role imagination plays in the human mind is tackled in the title poem "Samarkand," wherein the persona talks about how his hard-earned love is beyond imagination, how transported them to the city of Samarkand: "In Samarkand/ Cities a comma/ Isn't/ This is called a comma/ I cannot find/ Anywhere/ Else outside my mind."

The setting itself conjures images of "fair fantastic and the mystical, Samarkand being an ancient Central Asian city.

Wordplay

Another interesting poem is the first part is "Ballad of the Amputated," wherein Aquino uses wordplays and the grapheme and sign [&] in order to show the impossibility of events, both ordinary and fantastical. "Before the oblivion/was the last/ stretch/ the grand/Standing.../Before the sun/Crossed the Great Wall/ Before/An Overture/Was the music."

The last two stanzas proclaim that the "Limpid Pools recording,/ To second hand/ Sources will stand/ The test of each hand."

The second part consists of one poem, "Schrumm." The rhythm of escape and imagination come into full play with the image of the moon disappearing and how people explore up their own alternative worlds through dreams. The main character, who is a despondent, goes further by imagining that he goes to a make-believe kingdom in the moon where he eventually meets a girl. All seems real to him until he realizes he has become too engrossed in his dreams: "...Only one was searching him,/ of course, except he, and he had an effin' awareness of this, that he was satisfying himself/ while down below, she said earth rejoiced."

Old and new

A poet's creativity does not necessarily mean he should always invent new techniques. Instead, he may turn old literary forms and even other forms into new treatment.

Aquino shows this in the third section, "Verschlimmbesserung," wherein he takes certain lines from the prose works of his subject-authors and then arranges these in such a way as to create a poem.

Two poems are notable in that they portray the differences between the physical creation and the creation of them. "Executive Shit" and "The Restoration" are culled from Norman Mailer's nonfiction novel, "Executioner's Song," about the hanging of the convicted Ameri-can murderer Gary Gilmore.

"Executive Shit" recounts how the secretary of the execution honors Schiller, one of the prison guards who accompanied Gilmore to the firing squad. Despite the passage of time, the warden still remembers the last conversation he had with Gilmore.

"I don't know what I'm here for," the warden said.

Gilmore replied, "You're going to help me escape."

One can see here the inspiring power of memory in haunting the "actors" of a certain "blasted" situation.

In contrast, "The Restoration" may be seen as an allegory on the temporality of the physical in its satirical narration of how executions embalm the corpse of the convict. The episode becomes morbidly ridiculous when the remains "looked like Gary Gilmore/Again!," even if his body had been badly disfigured by the executioners.

The book ends aptly with "The Old Poems," which showcases some of Ruiz Aquino's earlier poems, including his humorous verses, "Strangers Than Love" and "Riddle."

Aquino's poems combine romanticism and surrealism. They employ the verbally arcane, the supernatural, and the fantastic. Despite their verbal dexterity, the verses are mostly in entirely traditional poetic forms, as National artist Edith Tiempo points out in her preface to the book. In form and feeling, they ring true.

Dumaguete City's Cesar Ruiz Aquino enthralls and enchants through poetry that's both familiar and alien

"FLIGHT," by Paul Eric Rea

LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

Global Pinoy editor as occasional art curator

Singapore has become a hub not just for the techies but also for the creatives

By James Fi Dog
Contributor

JUST RECENTLY, SOMEONE asked me if I ever think of going back to Manila or if I consider Singapore my home now. I thought the question was passé.

Filipinos, more than anyone, have become global citizens for the day and age—especially for Filipinos who work overseas—there's no just one true home. We work abroad, we assimilate into the culture of our host country, but we retain our Filipino identity.

That Filipino diaspora and issue of self-identity is what we are tackling in an art

SUNDAY/14

'Siningapor,' Pinoy art group, to hold show in S'pore

Exhibit marks 40 years of diplomatic relations between Manila and the Lion City

"UNTITLED," by Mike Bitzon

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 40th anniversary of Philippine-Singapore diplomatic relations in 2009, the Philippine Embassy in Singapore and art group Siningapor! mount an 11-man art and photo exhibit inspired by the Filipino diaspora.

What is life like as an overseas professional worker? And what is it like to live in Singapore—what are the things that you choose to see as a tourist, and those that you are forced

SHANGHAI/21

Parenting is fun

Editor Aries Rufino

Helping your child growing up during his or her formative years—and even through the unpredictable adolescent period—can be fun and inexpensive, even without the high-tech gadgetries some parents are nowadays to "coerce" their kids to believe. Here are some interesting activities we've found in and around the metropolis that require a healthy parent-child interaction. And it sure beats any video game!

Largest Global Gutz paintball field in RP at Island Cove

Island Cove Hotel and Leisure Park, the nearest prominent vacation and business destination in the South, and a pioneer of outstanding and unique amenities and attractions, recently opened its Global Gutz Paintball Field, the largest paintball arena in the Philippines.

The paintball field facilitated by Global Gutz is approximately 5,000 sqm and can accommodate two teams of 5 players at a time. Complete paintball gear is provided to ensure safety of the players.

Aside from being a favorite family destination, Island Cove is one of the most popular and easily accessible venues for corporate events because of the myriad of attractions available to the Island.

Island Cove managing director Gilbert Bernal, Jr. said, "Paintball is as an exciting team-building activity for companies for corporate seminars, conferences and events management as it fosters all essential elements of team-building like forming a group and strategic planning."

He added, "The addition of the paintball field to our facilities ensures Island Cove remains ahead of the curve in terms of guest services." He continued, "In fact, the paintball field is just one of the facilities that our management has added to the numerous existing attractions found in the Island."

According to Bernalle, Island Cove is in the process of renovating itself. Part of its rebranding initiatives include a new resort logo, the renovations and facelifts on existing facilities, the menu revamp in all food outlets, and the launch of its camping grounds and bike trail. Free WI-FI access has also been made available in most parts of the Island.

Island Cove has been known to be the pioneer in the tourism industry with respect to the innovation of a multitude of attractions that have both local and foreign visitors. The existing facilities available to its guests are the Oceana Water Park, the animal Island, the Island Songs RTV, the 18-pin bowling lanes and billiards at the Sports Cove, the Fishing Village, and the Island Spa. Island Cove's other well-loved trademarks include the outdoor giant chess set, the play ground, and Cotton's Pub, just to name a few.

Island Cove Hotel and Leisure Park is an ISO 9001:2000 certified and an "AAA" accredited resort by the Department of Tourism. Located in the historic town of Nasugbu, Batangas, the Island Cove is a one-hour-and-a-half scenic drive from Metro Manila.

For more information, log on to www.islandcovephil.com or call 813-7878.

Unlocking infinite possibilities through uninterrupted play

Children today are experiencing a world of infinite possibilities. Thanks to a growing number of mothers who now encourage uninterrupted play. These moms are more open-minded and rely on friendship, trust and reason as the foundation for a lasting relationship with their kids.

This was validated by "Motherhood Today," a global research study initiated by Huggies, a Kimberly-Clark child care brand. The study noted that many of today's mothers take on a more active role as educators and playmates of their children. These moms believe that key to unlocking their child's potential is an enjoyable and experience-filled childhood.

Furthermore, the Huggies study recognizes the value of uninterrupted play in a child's social, physical and mental development. More importantly, it allows for continuous bonding and learning between mom and baby. Children who learn/learn how to play will have more playful and creative approaches to life as adults.

Helen Limcaoco, CEO of Just for Kids Inc and franchise owner and manager of The Little Gym, an international fitness and development center for children, firmly believes in the importance of active play. "By adopting a parenting style that considers the children's integrated needs at a very young age, we will be able to create a generation of wiser lifelong learners who will be better students than ourselves, and better educators than our generation," Limcaoco said.

Limcaoco also noted that "an active lifestyle enhances brain development at any age. Exercise, sports, dance or any other activity that encourages movement are great at keeping the brain active and engaged."

Learning fast with iQuest

Combine fast-paced quiz games with school textbook information in resolutions in therapy your child studies for math, science and social studies classes. Game questions are based on over 200 of the most commonly used middle-school textbooks so kids prepare for their actual chapter tests and quizzes just by playing. Music, animations, hints and scoring make studying fun and effective. Based math, science and social studies cartridges are purchased separately. For on-the-go students, a cool carrying case is a must have to protect your iQuest handheld and up to four cartridges. The iQuest Carrying Case is available in two colors—blue and black. The iQuest Handheld and Carrying Case, the Learn-Along Piano and Twist and Shout Addition and Multiplication are products of Leap Frog and are exclusively distributed by Kidsmark Pacific Corp. It is available at Kidz Station, Toy Kingdom, SM malls and at all leading department stores and toy stores nationwide. For more information about Leap Frog visit www.leapfrog.com or call Kidsmark at 898-1103 to 42.

LEARN-ALONG PIANO

Take melodic entertaining wherever baby goes! With three modes of play, baby is introduced to a wide range of learning with every tap of the piano keys. In learn mode, press a key to hear the Leap Frog characters talk about four different chapters and colors! In Melodic Free mode, baby can advance through 26 different tunes. Finally, in Free-Play mode, baby can actually create his own melodies. Other features include a Taptronic button that changes the instrument sound, a carry handle for on-the-go fun and attachment links that allow parents to attach this piano just about anywhere.

KEEP SCHOOL SKILLS SHARP WITH TWIST AND SHOUT

Ready, set, learn! The Leap Frog Twist and Shout Addition and Multiplication is simple as 1-2-3. It features big games that mix with cool musical beats to teach math skills. It teaches addition tables 1 to 12 and subtraction, or multiplication tables 1 to 10 and division. Twist the number dial to create equations, and "hit it" to select an answer that's both heard and seen on the LCD screen. Build your own equations, answer a multiple-choice quiz, fill in the missing number or "Beat the Clock" and answer as many questions as you can in 90 seconds. It keeps score and has a headphone jack and volume control for quiet play. Perfect for on-the-go learning fun. It is ideal for kids from years and up.

UNO GAMES COLLECTION

Bring your family and friends closer together with the UNO Games Collection that includes the UNO Cards, UNO Attack, UNO Stacko and Car-Go-UNO. The UNO Card is easy to pick up yet impossible to put down. It's a fast, fun play for everyone. The UNO Attack is a frenzied, unpredictable version of the popular UNO game. It adds speed and surprise to the classic UNO game with an electronic card shooter that may shoot an card or may shoot up to eight cards. The UNO Stacko, on the other hand, is a stacking block game with an UNO twist. This reinvented version is just like UNO, with commands on the tiles themselves that include wild, reverse, draw 2 and skip. Have portable pop-up fun with Car-Go UNO. It's a self-contained games and play sets that store in your car's cup holder-ready to take along and play wherever, whenever! Get your own UNO Games Collection now and experience great fun with family and friends. The UNO Games Collection is exclusively distributed by Richard Trading Corp., the largest toy distributor in the Philippines. It is available at all leading department stores and toy stores nationwide. For more information about other UNO products, visit www.richard.com.ph or call 721-5141 to 45. Shoes are Richard Trading Corp marketing manager Elaine Dalisay (2nd from left) and Toy Kingdom store manager Cecille Ocampo (2nd from right) at the launch of the Richard UNO Games Collection at Toy Kingdom, SM Megamall.

Motherhood made easier in FNRI seminar series

Moms are the most loved people on earth. It's no coincidence they carried us for 9 long months and brought us into the world, but they become more nurtured and loved as from childhood to adulthood and even afterwards.

In the same passionate and loving way that Moms take care of their children, Coca-Cola aims to ensure that Filipino children live healthy and active lifestyles. Coca-Cola does this through its corporate social responsibility (CSR) programs like NutriJuice and Kinet-Kids, to name a few.

NutriJuice is an iron-fortified orange juice drink developed by Coca-Cola in collaboration with the Food and Nutrition Research Institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST). It was created to help counteract to the eradication of iron-deficiency anemia, which according to the 2003 National Nutrition Survey is the highest micro-nutrient deficiency in the Philippines. NutriJuice has also been fortified with zinc, lysine and Vitamins A and C.

It is extremely important to ensure the normal development of children. In July 2008, the NutriJuice feeding program was started to benefit 5,000 schoolchildren in 17 schools in Quezon province, which has one of the highest rates of iron deficiency anemia in the country, no additional 1,500 children also received the program at the Bagong Silangan Elementary School in Quezon City.

NutriJuice was officially launched Aug. 12 in Bagong Silangan, with the presence of The Coca-Cola Company chair E. Neville Isdell, as well as Senate President Manuel Villar, Sen. Pia Cayetano, Department of Education (DepEd) Secretary Jesli Lapus, Quirino Governor Dakila Cua and Rep. Junie Cua, Director Mario Capanzana of the FNRI-DOST, and other officials from the DepEd.

The Kinet-Kidz It's Fun to be Fit program on the other hand is a nutrition education and physical activity program which incorporates the values of a healthy and active lifestyle (HAL) into the DepEd's curriculum for health, science, physical education and social science. It aims to educate children how to live HAL so that they may grow up to be healthy and active adults. Started in 2004 with only 4 pilot schools, it is now being implemented in 48 schools nationwide.

NutriJuice and Kinet-Kidz were featured in the 36th Seminar Series of the FNRI-DOST last July 15 and 16. Held at the FNRI building inside the DOST complex in Taguig City, it was titled "Sa maunlad na ospisyo at morning, siguradong healthy si baby." The programs were discussed to the audience of health practitioners, entrepreneurs, health officials and moms, detailing the mechanics of the programs and their results.

Marlene Bonnaparte, Senior Science Research Specialist from the FNRI-DOST, discussed NutriJuice. She detailed the method of studying the effectiveness of NutriJuice, which was given to children 4 to 5 years old for 100 days. The results showed that "among anemic children, the prevalence of anemia decreased from 100 percent at baseline to 20.4 percent." She concluded that NutriJuice is effective in improving the prevalence of underweight and iron stores of children.

Kinet-Kids was discussed by Celeste Sanchaco, Chief Science and Research Specialist from the FNRI-DOST. She said, "It addresses the perennial and actual problem of overweight and obesity, nutrition education and supervised programs are essential." The results of the evaluation done on the first pilot schools showed that "For the majority of the study participants, positive shift in knowledge, attitude and practice levels ... were observed." She concluded, "It is recommended that the program planners, implementers and other users adopt the Kinet-Kids program and use the indicators as guides in plan and evidence healthy weight-promoting schools."

To all moms, keep up the good work in nurturing your children. Coca-Cola will do the same in helping keep Filipino kids more healthy and active.

PICKING UP VALUES AT 'GAWIN ANG TAMA' ROAD SHOW

The children of Mabi City picked up new lessons on doing the right thing through the values formation road show entitled 'Gawin ang Tama' held at the South Cotabato Gymnasium. Using creative mimes like animals, music, and action-packed fun, the six-day show encourages Filipinos to do what is right in their everyday lives. The 'Gawin ang Tama' road show is a program of the Character Building Foundation (CBF). Gawin ang 'Tama' road show is set to visit places across the Philippines. Executive CBF founder and president Henk Rossi (left) with the Mabi of South Cotabato (2nd) was at the presentation of the road show.

Sa new milestones ni Baby James,
I just can't help but smile!

For me, they're

Nestlé
CERELAC
smilestones

k ays
super-happy ako
that his pedia recommended CERELAC
nung six months old siya.
Sure ako he gets complete nutrition in every serving!
Kasi every bowl has the calories, protein,
iron and other essential nutrients he needs
to help him reach his milestones!

Watch out for more of my stories
about Baby James and his milestones
...na smilestones naman for me!

Kasi with every new milestone,
parehо kaming naka-smile ng CERELAC!

Big Nutrition for Small Tummies

"Man in Search of a Bad Ringtone," by Noel Rosales

Global Pinoy editor . . .

From page E1

exhibit on Aug. 17. "Siningapor" (see related article), which I helped organize in cooperation with the Philippine Embassy in Singapore. The show, to be held at Singapore Art Centre, will stand the countdown to the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Singapore and the Philippines in 2009.

The participants are 11 Filipino artists who live or work here. We have called our group "Siningapor," which holds a double meaning. While the direct translation is "Singapore Art," it also means being "Singapore-ensured" or integrating into the local culture.

In the show, also titled "Siningapor," we ask ourselves three questions: What is life like as an overseas professional worker? And what is it like to live in Singapore—what are the things that you choose to see as a tourist, and those that you are forced to deal with as a resident?

Back in 2001

When I first lived here in Singapore in 2000, I worked as one of eight foreign subeditors in the country's biggest publishing company. I learned how to proofcare at least three newspaper pages a day.

Sub-editing, a fairly arbitrary set of concepts to Manila journalists, means you copy-edit manuscripts, supplied headlines and captions, designed pages, laid them out, then sent them to the printers. All on your own. You were responsible for your own pages.

The daily grind was nerve-wracking, thanks to a boss who seemed to have been brought out of a trance. But I learned discipline and attention to detail (subtle humiliation was the punishment for using "color" instead of the British spelling "colour"; for bonus instead of "bonuses," though that word is rarely used here, as it will teach lexicons)—which became useful when I returned to Manila years later to reincarnate as a magazine editor.

I decided to work again in Singapore exactly a year ago. By then my monochromatic side had reasserted: I missed the daily grind of the newsroom.

Working in dioceses

But something had also changed. I wanted to bring editorship to the next level. I wanted to experience something more than paced than a newspaper; or even television news (which I did in the late '90s), so I joined a dioceses company, where, until now, I still get amazed by technology that allows you to monitor a reader's behavior.

JOURNALIST and art curator James Ong in his Singapore office.

Unlike in newspapers or magazines, with Internet publishing, we only can you get the number of people who read your articles, you also find out how much time they spend reading it, and where they go afterward.

As an editor, this means having an automated check and balance system: In your reading of the nation's pulse as on-the-dot as you believed it was? For a marketer, this means being able to predict a trend and present concrete figures to advertisers.

Part of extended family

Because of its size, I'm lucky that the company I joined (the time is more manageable. It is a smaller company and employees are treated like they were part of the managing director's extended family. Everyone tells everyone how Filipinos are so creative, and how we all know how to sing and dance, among others. (He yet has to see me do either.)

There are four Filipinos under his employ, and he is always proud of that—he tells everyone that our company is multicultured! I see how colleagues from India and Burma and he always asks us when we would bring adults, and when would be a good time to visit Manila. His dream is to bring the entire company to a summer vacation in the Philippines.

Brain drain

Another question I am asked often is if Singapore has changed since the last time I lived here. A lot, I say. It's like an entire generation has grown up and taken over.

My colleagues, most in their early 20s, are more relaxed and open-minded than the generation before them. The bars are open until early morning, people are smiling, and you see more foreign faces on the streets.

Singapore has become a hub not just for the outside but also for the creatives. When I was here seven years ago, many of the Filipinos I knew were either working in the architectural/interior design industry or IT.

Nowadays, with the S-Pass visa for mid-level skilled workers, there are a lot of Pinoys working in the hospitality industry (and this number is expected to increase sharply when Singapore opens its first-ever casino and a Universal Studios on Sentosa Island in 2010). There are also several Pinoys holding influential positions in magazines.

The inevitable question, I guess, is, Why the brain drain? A well-known Tokyo scholar, who was here a few weeks ago for an inspirational conversation on Overseas Chinese population, lamented how all the good talents had left the countries.

She agreed the Philippines was lessening incentives to work in, especially for writers because the industry didn't pay well and had so little respect for the writer and the journalist. That's just some of the reasons . . . albeit compelling ones.

Top liveable city

But it's not just Filipinos going to Singapore for a better job. The 21st century is all about Asia and China. Even Switzerland from First World countries are moving here to work and wrestle their families in the region.

The influential Monocle magazine, for the second year running, has named Singapore as one of the world's Top 25 Liveable Cities and praised it for having "leapfrogged to First World status in barely two generations."

First-World pay

Other Asians who work here like the idea of getting first world pay. According to the Ministry of Manpower, the average monthly wage for a postbroader about is S$1,500 and $$8,500 for an advertising creative director.

Those who hold permanent residence status can send their children to a local school for as low as S$15 a year, and enjoy around 60-percent subsidy on health care. These are the benefits being given by a government that is sincere in wanting to take care of its nation's population.

BP needs direction

Singapore is intent on becoming a major power, and it is doing something concrete to achieve that. Singapore has a master plan, and it is following it. That's one thing we ourselves need to do as a nation and as a people: Acquire foresight and discipline. Filipinos already have the talent and skill, we just need a good leader to give us direction.

Editor's note: The author, who contributes to the Philippine Daily Inquirer, used to be managing editor of Metro magazine. E-mail jamesjongph@yahoo.com.

"Esplanade Man," by Cel Quisqui

'Siningapor' . . .

From page E1

so deal with as residents?

In an art exhibit titled "Siningapor," Singapore-based Filipino artists tackle issues such as migration, cultural identity and the evolution of Filipinos who have left their country to work abroad. They delve into the reality of living away from their homes country.

Eleven artists, all full-time employees in the creative field, use painting, mixed media and photography to express their own take on the Philippine-Singapore and how the confluence of different cultures affect their identity as Filipinos.

They are editorial cartoonist Manny Francisco, architect Ilian Zara, infographics artist Mike Dizon, illustrators Ded Tile Boco, Cel Quisqui, Ludwig Illo and Noel Sembrano, artist-photographer Lenore Lardizosa, video artist Mike Bartilla, filmmaker Wyn Calderon and hobbyist Jasmin Ong.

The exhibit is curated by [illegible]-editor James T. Ong (see related article).

These artists are part of an informal collective that has called itself "Siningapor"—which holds a double meaning. While the direct translation is "Singapore Art," it could also mean being "Singapore-ensured" or integrating into the Lion City's culture.

"Siningapor" will run Aug. 18-23, 12 noon-6 p.m., at the Photographic Society of Singapore Gallery (20 Selegie Road, Selegie Arts Centre, 188336. Tel. no. 65-6334 3161; email: [illegible]@yahoo.com.

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Inquirer

WITH Filipino friends in Singapore get-together: teacher-art collector Bobby Francisco of Fatima University Museum, Walt Disney Studios marketing director Ma.an Villareal and writer-film producer Raymond Lee.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Tonnie G. Velunta

QC fest draws new directors

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

THE QUEZON CITY FILM Festival has attracted students-directors from universities and colleges in the area.

Nora Aunor, executive director of the QC Film Development Commission, gave buyouts Entertainment a list of the early entrants, which include short filmmakers from UP Diliman, St. Paul University Angelicum College and Mapúa College.

"They're very creative," Aunor said of the entries. "The films come in various forms and genres and tackle varied themes."

A comedy, "Hindi Ka sa America," by Nesan Blass of St. Paul, discusses the exodus of Filipino professionals to the US.

A drama, "One Hundred Peso Bill," by Love Ann Tayag of Angelicum, chronicles the struggles of a girl who is raped by her father and becomes obsessed with P100.

Movie, theater and TV actors Irma Adlawan and John Arcilla star in "Pating Ina," made by UP student Aina Peralta.

Other entries are "Giga" by Sonia Pascual, "Metronome" by Ico Higuio, "Pe-

BOTTOM

LOVE IN ALL SHADES OF BLUE. On Santorini Island in Greece, KC Concepcion and Richard Gutierrez couldn't help getting lovey-dovey-ist, as a two-smack pair in paradise./D1

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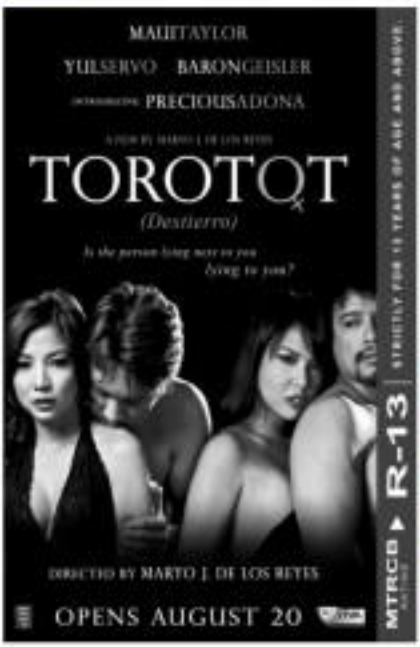

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9 DOBOL TROBOL
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1 YOU DON'T MESS with the ZOHAN
2 ROGUE
3 THE X-FILES: I WANT to BELIEVE
4 WALL·E
5 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE
6 DOBOL TROBOL
7 THE MUMMY: TOMB of the DRAGON EMPEROR
8 MAMMA MIA!
MY SASSY GIRL
9 THE DARK KNIGHT

METRO EAST

1 MY SASSY GIRL
2 WALL·A·E
3 DOBOL TROBOL
4 THE MUMMY 3
5 THE X-FILES: I WANT to BELIEVE
6 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE
7 ROGUE
8
THE DARK KNIGHT

NOVALICHES

1 THE MUMMY 3
A VERY SPECIAL LOVE
2 THE X-FILES: I WANT to BELIEVE
3 WALL·E
4 DOBOL TROBOL

PIONEER

1 THE X-FILES: I WANT to BELIEVE
2 ROGUE
3 DOBOL TROBOL
4 WALL·E

STA. ROSA

1 THE X-FILES: I WANT to BELIEVE
2 THE MUMMY 3
3 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE
4 WALL·E
5 DOBOL TROBOL

LIPA

1 WALL·E
2 DOBOL TROBOL
3 THE MUMMY 3
4 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE

DASMARIÑAS

1 WALL·E
2 THE X-FILES: I WANT to BELIEVE
3 DOBOL TROBOL
4 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE

IMUS

1 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE
2 WALL·E
3 DOBOL TROBOL
4 THE X-FILES: I WANT to BELIEVE
5 THE MUMMY 3: TOMB of the DRAGON EMPEROR

ANGELES

1 WALL·E
2 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE
3 DOBOL TROBOL
4 THE X-FILES: I WANT to BELIEVE

STARMILLS

1 WALL·E
2 THE X-FILES: I WANT to BELIEVE
3 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE
4 DOBOL TROBOL
5 THE MUMMY 3
6 YOU DON'T MESS with the ZOHAN

BACOLOD

1 WALL·E
2 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE
3 DOBOL TROBOL
4 MEET DAVE
5 THE MUMMY 3
6 YOU DON'T MESS with the ZOHAN

ILOILO

1 WALL·E
2 DOBOL TROBOL
3 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE
4 THE MUMMY 3
5 PONTIANAK
6 YOU DON'T MESS with the ZOHAN

QC fest . . .

From page F1

prizes" by Anna Fenzlaf and "Korner ng Shanghai" by Jed Chris Dantagnan from UP; "Kung Hotai Ito" by Nica Miranda, "Pag Agaw" by Ms. Paola Dolimpos, "Bandila" by Fernalo Medera, "Kanvalist" by Ed-ciarra T. Avelo, "First Day" by Kristin Nicolas, "Spa" by Jessa Rochelle Dizon and "Hoyt- Pott" by Maria Rodolfo Reyes of Alabang; "Cashvasser" by Jovi Saldana, "Lalid Obsession" by Regene Ong and "Dalgalito" by HM Gigante from Angeles.

Artistic award for original soundtracks used in movies from UP and Malate; "They wrote their own songs, too."

The festival is set from Sept. 10 to 17 at the Complex of Gateway Mall.

To be garde is a P20,000 cash prize to the five categories: Animation, Experimental, Narrative and Documentary.

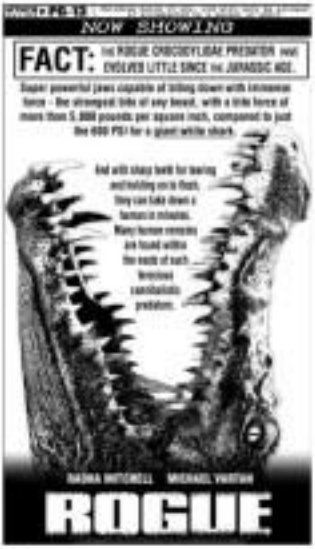
E-mail: bgmcinemadigest@hotmail.com

Canadian porn channel

TORONTO—CANADIANS WHO MAY have been passed over as porn stars have a new outlet for their talents. Authorities have granted Alberta-based Red Productions approval for a new digital pornography channel, which vows to serve up at least 50 percent domestic content. Reuters

DID YOU KNOW...

STUDENTS like these budding filmmakers from St. Paul, show remarkable creativity, says Nica Zamora, executive director of the QC Film Development Commission. "Their short films come in various forms and tackle varied themes.



'Olympic' battle continues for Cesar, Sunshine

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

CESAR MONTANO AND SUNshine Cruz are still going through the difficult course of their marriage. Before wanted to take Shine to the Beijing Olympics so they could settle the score there but Shine told me that's over! Automatic.

Considering the volatile state of their marriage, I wouldn't be surprised if they end up going to the "Olympics" after all. The Montano battle of the sexes must end. Let the peace talks begin!

Guess bet

♦A movie bigwig warned a network executive about an actress who throws her weight around. "Mag-ingat kayo sa babaeng yan. Pag 'di n'yo siya nasunod, she could cause the downfall of your network." Beware of the superior vibes the spunoki around. It's a reunion to the spoof.

♦A young actress keeps saying that she and Sandy are not rivals in the getting to know-you stage. Yeah it's they resolved the points of influence. Once the "knowing how-to-get-rid-of-h" stage.

♦A band member got shocked when a young actor ordered him to get more backstage. "Obvious naman na siempre ng performer ako because I was holding my guitar while I got off the stage," he lamented. "Akal kpa ring yun pero wala ayang right na sabunin ako ng ganyan." Perhaps the actor thought that he was in Barrio Fiesta and network him for a singing starlet.

CESAR Montano and daughters in Punglao Beach, Baler

PHOTO COURTESY OF SUNSHINE CRUZ

Equal measure

"I would rather have a squid in a relationship," told Sam Milby. "Dun nag-partner lining more than the shy Anne Curtis and I make it a point to measure each other of how we feel on a daily basis." The fast-rubbed Filipino Dreamz star whitening soap endorser gives his fans more reasons to adore him as Adonis with their exposure and all. Sana like it too, Sister like it SAM!

Record setters

"My most incredible experience was having breakfast with the USA basketball team. So Marion personally" gushed Paolo Contis.

He will manage even more astounding stuff played by international record setters in GMA TV's "World Records" airing Tuesdays on the "Bilib Ka Ba Nights."

Other shows on the TV block are "Ripley's Believe it or Not" (Mondays, hosted by Chris Tiu) and "Masquerade" (Wednesdays, hosted by Ariel and Maverick) where Japanese contestants do weird stunts and wacky pranks. Guess.

Sky Pao's first crack at hosting. "It's hard because I'm used to being male in my co-workmates," he said. "Now I have to look charming." The villain in Pao will trade his guns for some deadly charms.

Paying it forward

Dr. Vicki Belo is a busy guy. She's never too busy to be a friend and never too famous to be attuned to the needs of the less fortunate. True to form, her Belo Medical Group launched the Ito ang Simula Belo Foundation, a non-profit corporate charity meant to shape lives with education, surgical assistance and environmental protection as its advocacies.

It is in honor of Vicki's pet aunt who instilled in her the value of charitable giving. The launch coincides with the Belo Medical Group's 15th anniversary as the country's top name in the aesthetic and cosmetic surgery. What it says is focused as the BMG's success goes hot for word.

Anniversary show

"I'm excited because my kids are arriving with Michelle (Van Klaveren) from Australia to watch my 20th anniversary show at the Big Dome on Sept. 20," Ogie Alcasid enthused. "I'll dedicate a song to my kids."

He's also ecstatic that his "Sweet Pilipino Songbook" album is topping the charts. How does this great Pinoy singer/songwriter prepare for a show?

"I wear the coco that my mom gave me for my 40th birthday and I never eat as soon as I wake up. The color energizes me."

Twenty years filled with Ogie's immortal love songs has kept countless lovers swaying!

Kiko's pride

It's hard to picture someone as jolly as Pinoxicillin Lichtenfeld. Kiko happens to be the strong of my oldest daughter. I remember during his "Dual's Entertainment" days, he would greet me on the air by saying, "Hi Sharlene!"

When I asked him why he used that name, he explained that it's because "Michi Dolly" was sung by Barbra Streisand. Kiko really has a gift of making a new spin on even the most ordinary things. And like the lyrics of his hit song "Mga Kabalbalan ko"—"Kung may isa o may pari mawal, namang kaya-mangga...".

He takes pride in the Pinoy blood that runs through his veins and reminds us to do so as well. May that same blood he kind to him in return and make him win his battle with leukemia.

E-mail: sunnyvgirls-changirls@yahoo.com

ENTERTAINMENT

"Jil" director Ronald Kasper S. Pasion, center, with cast members Karen Reyes, Coco Martin and Rio Locsin

Passion drives Venice-bound-Francis Pasion

(Conclusion)

LOS ANGELES—"SINCE THE THEME OF the film is truth, I wanted the actors to be truthful to what they say and how they say it," Venice Film Festival director Marcello Xavier S. Pasion declared in our Q&A interview with him about "Jay," his debut feature which continues to earn accolades for himself and his cast—**Baron Geisler**, **Coco Martin** and **Rio Locsin**.

In the second part of our column on Pasion, he expounds some more on truth and faith which drive him, plus growing up with art, film and religion.

Contrary to what I wrote yesterday, actress Sonia Braga is not a member of the International jury for Venice Film Festival's Orizzonti (Horizons) sidebar, where "Jay" and **Lav Diaz**'s "Heremias" are competing. The jury members are: Belgian filmmaker and artist **Chantal Akerman** (president), French film critic **Nicole Brenez**, Italian actress and director-assistant **Barbara Cupisti**, Spanish director **Jose Luis Guerin**, and Peruvian director **Valeria Sarmiento**, who won last year's Orizzonti prize with his debut feature film, "Sarmiento Bell (Hypothesis)."

How and when did your spirituality become such a big influence in your life?

When I was young, I would often draw evil, grave images on the back of cigarette cartons. (When I was first prior to a motivational seminar. It was in grade 6), the first thing I thought was an image of the Sto. Niño and St. Anthony.

I don't know why I was so religious at a very young age, though—winning the priesthood never crossed my mind. I remember challenging my Religion and Christian Living teachers in grade school and high school. I was never satisfied with their explanation of the existence of hell. I was 12, and still—like children were afraid of hell and the devil, I wondered, if God is so good, how could He create hell?

I question traditions and beliefs that relate to the essence of spirituality. I embrace the truths of other religions as well. I read a lot about the Kabbalah, Buddhist teachings, Taoism and other religions. I even practice feng shui. I regularly consult my astrologer. I do not subscribe to an organized religion. I am open to other beliefs. Whatever works for me, I apply in my life.

You've been quoted as saying that 'Jay' was motivated by your work in the media.

I worked as a stage artist for more than four years, and my last job was as head writer and producer of a docu-drama program (about) Filipinos living abroad and the families they leave behind in the Philippines. It was my experience in producing these documentaries that motivated me to write the script for 'Jay'). It took) a week. It's easy when you write about your own jobs. I felt the audiences should know the nature of my job and how it affects the final product that they see on TV. I hope audiences were more critical and discerning of what they

PAGE 03

Only in Hollywood

Rafael V. Seguban

Cheer Factor

King-sized guffaw

POP QUIZ: WHAT MAKES COMEDY KING-Dolphy well in laughter?

Answer: Recalling parodies pulled by terrific kings—Fernando Poe Jr. Delightly recalls: "Noon, sa isang TV special, ginaya ko rin sila. Ang hirap-hirap pala nito. Ang sarap-sarap ng tulog ko pagkatapos." Beyond Sun Diego Jr.

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AL LIPIN — BY JOSUA MERA

TULDOK — BY HARA COLL

PUSONG BABOY — BY MEL JUNIOR

DIVINE COMEDY — BY STEVEN PABALINAS

MAKIKISINGIR — BY JOMAR TEJIDO

SALAMIN — BY DARWIN PEREZ

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

ATOMIC AND WEEGY — BY LISA GARCELLANO

LOVEKNOTS — BY ELIZABETH CHONGLO

KIKO MACHINE — BY MANG ASBERA

MEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Quarrels (with)
5 Did dirt (on)
11 "Nurse ___"
12 Valentine's Day purchase
13 Film student
14 Tarnish (with a dark substance)
16 Holder of "All My Children"
18 Pond, probably
20 Army mascot
23 Pointer sports dog
24 Wearing glasses
25 Short
27 Hairdressers' offerings
31 Hurricane alert
34 Hairy creature
35 Astronomical phrase
37 Cap
38 Gig laugh
39 Skipper's dad
41 Cut
43 Sue, letter side
46 OB, TV group
47 Unsolicited PR assistant
49 Garments (suits)
50 Contemplative state
51 Cook
52 Mental stretcher
54 Duck or wind
55 "Restaurant" dessert
60 CD-ROM user
61 Lowest constellation
62 Computer hub
63 Insides on a date
64 Comes out into the open
71 Question of identity
72 Does indeed
73 Violent state

DOWN
1 Gets done
2 Lyricist Gershwin
3 "My Cats" singer
4 Mischievous monkey
5 Lost weekend
6 Tiptoe through the tulips
7 Pulls sausages
8 Dirt hurler
9 Cherry morsels
10 Bonanza sight
11 Fighter Blue Max's wife
12 Morales
13 Pound's pooch
15 Lean and muscular
17 Bonkers or Dandridge
19 "I think it ___"
21 Brush or spit
22 Hero in Hodja tales
26 Hand-waving gathering
28 Sullivan movies
29 Business letter abbr.
30 Apathetic indecisiveness
32 Flies were gone
33 Actress Hagen
36 Richards actor
40 NY gathering spots
42 Sugar whoppers
44 Country artists
45 ___ of Liberty
47 Country's Chavez
48 Cloudy tattoos
49 Garment activity
52 Of a liberty
53 Country's Chavez
56 Cole
57 Mimics
58 Eldest of one of Hawaii
59 Salinger hero
63 Old Nordic duke
65 Bird
66 Book of verses

By Michael T. Williams
Clearwater, FL
8/16/10

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're smart enough to relate to all walks of life. You place great value on the experiences as a teacher. You're philosophical by nature, and definitely not afraid to meet adversity and obstacles head-on. You're very patient. Many of you are involved in writing, teaching, or some human-service profession. Actress Anne Heche (1969), actor Jason Lee (1970), actress Edward Norton, actors Patrick Swayze, actor Rosalynn Carter, former reality actress/former First Lady

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You have an unpredictable, independent streak. Others don't know what you're going to do next. You're full of surprises. You're right.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Friends or family members may ask you for advice. You may not know what to say. You're not a psychic. But you're very intuitive. Trust your instincts. You already know what's going to happen. You're right.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Friends, lovers and VIPs are in the spotlight. Be careful what you say. Others don't know what's going to happen. You're right.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Unexpected developments may force you to change your plans. You're right.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You're in the spotlight. Others may be envious of your success or charm/popularity. You might unexpectedly get a gift or favor from someone. You!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Partners are extremely hard to predict. They change their mind several times before you know it. You might be walking down the aisle. You're right.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Expect interruptions in your routine. Don't be surprised if a relative moves in. Your mood generally improves today. You're right.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Make sure you have enough gasoline before you start your journey. You're right.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You're a creative, compassionate person. Your mood generally improves throughout the day. You're right.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You're a creative, compassionate person. Your mood generally improves throughout the day. You're right.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You're a creative, compassionate person. Your mood generally improves throughout the day. You're right.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You are very sensitive and creative. You feel like you're being pulled in many directions. You might be interrupted by visitors or phone calls. You're right.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Concepts Sudoku — By Dave Green

	7		6			9		
	4			8	2		7	5
1		3	9			6		
	6					2		1
	2		8	1	4		5	
8		1					9	
		2			7	8		3
3	9		2	6			1	
		8			3		2	

Difficulty Level ★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answers to previous puzzle

4	1	2	7	9	3	6	5	8
3	7	8	6	1	5	2	9	4
5	6	9	4	8	2	7	3	1
1	2	4	3	5	7	9	8	6
7	5	6	8	2	9	4	1	3
8	9	3	1	5	4	6	7	2
2	8	1	9	3	6	5	4	7
6	3	7	5	4	8	1	2	9
9	4	5	2	7	1	3	6	8

Passion drives . . .

From page G1

sex-crucible ideas.

It's easy to say that the film is all about media exploitation, lust of scoundrels, the public who manipulates the media. Some of our ads-

juice grandly posed for the camera. Others made ridiculous demands. Sheila and the audience lived on each other's inanimate hunger for

PASSION by

MMTA MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX

1. WALL-E
2. THE X-FILES
3. THE MUMMY
4. WALL-E

Watch out for the 2nd International Silent Film Festival

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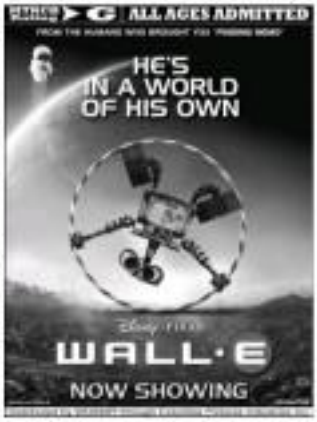
DOBOL TROBOL "READY 2 RAMBOL" – G	WALL-E – G	WALL-E – G
YOU DON'T MESS WITH THE ZOHAN – PG13	ROGUE – PG13 THE MUMMY 3 – PG13	X-FILES: I WANT TO BELIEVE – PG13

GREENHILLS CINEMAS

THEATRE MALL

PROMENADE



ALL AGES ADMITTED

HE'S IN A WORLD OF HIS OWN

WALL·E

NOW SHOWING

AT THE CINEMAS

GLORIETTA 1	1 WALL-E	2 THE X-FILES	3 [illegible]	4 DOUBLE TROUBLE
GLORIETTA 4	1 DOUBLE TROUBLE	2 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE	3 THE X-FILES	
	4 ROGUE	5 THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR	6 WALL-E	7 MY BABY'S GIRL 2: THE HUNTER
GREENBELT 1	1 WALL-E	2 THE X-FILES		
GREENBELT 2	1 WALL-E	2 THE X-FILES		
	3 MY BABY'S GIRL	4 YOU DON'T MESS WITH THE ZOHAN	5 THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 WALL-E	2 THE X-FILES		
	3 MY BABY'S GIRL / ROGUE	4 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE	5 THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR	
ANAL CENTER CEBU	1 WALL-E	2 THE X-FILES	3 DOUBLE TROUBLE	4 MY BABY'S GIRL / THE MUMMY
MARKET! MARKET!	1 DOUBLE TROUBLE	2 MY BABY'S GIRL / YOU DON'T MESS WITH THE ZOHAN		
	3 THE X-FILES	4 WALL-E	5 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE	
TRINOMA	1 DOUBLE TROUBLE	2 MY BABY'S GIRL / YOU DON'T MESS WITH THE ZOHAN	3 ROGUE	4 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE
	5 THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR	6 THE X-FILES	7 WALL-E	

AT THE MALLS

Ayala Malls

Glorietta — CINDERELLA MEET & GREET, August 16 - Activity Center

Greenbelt — Sony Exhibit, August 16-17 - Greenbelt 3 Fashion Walk

Alabang Town Center — Nurses Exhibit, August 22 - 24, Activity Center

Ayala Center Cebu — Indonesia Product Display, August 1 to 31, Paseo

Market! Market! — THE GEN 13 MULTIMEDIA LIVE SHOW, LIVE INTERACTIVE FAMILY SHOW and MEET & GREET, August 22, 23 & 24, 1pm, 3:30pm & 6pm, Activity Center

Cinemalaya — Repertoire Philippines presents Disney's WALL-E, August 9 to December 31, 2008

Ayala Museum — Just Love, Selected Paintings from the Bill Collection on view until Aug 31

Tri-Noma — Last Weekend to Live, Aug. 23, 1pm, Activity Center

Eight Prize, Digital Fashion Prints from Young Designers, Aug. 23-Sept. 5, 4th Level Cinema Lobby

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Glorietta · Greenbelt · Alabang Town Center · Ayala Center Cebu · Market! Market! · Tri-Noma

Greece is the word

APE (top or arse'n'ray)! KC and Richard become clone-es on the set

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos courtesy of Star Cinema

"SILA PERO HINDI SILA CHEVYNE A couple, but they're not), " was how filmmaker Joyce Bernal described the deliciously confusing state of KC Concepcion and Richard Gutierrez's relationship. "Sila ngayon (They're at some right now)"—as press time, at least.

Bernal, who directs the sandwich-flict outing, "For the First Time," zoomed off last spending 16 days on the Greek islands of Santorini helped KC and Richard get into character—as a love-struck pair in this heady romance from Star Cinema.

Initially, however, KC was "guarded."

Ten days on Santorini leave KC and Richard helplessly in love — and that's for reel, says Direk Joyce

Bernal told Inquirer Entertainment in an exclusive interview: "Maybe she was worried about how her career (singer-actress-Ramon Ciannel ovrald) must to the romantic scenes."

In fairness to her, the tender moments were watched by hundreds of tourists.

When Jose kissing scenes, the tourists applauded," Bernal recounted. "If, get self-conscious. But Richard, to his credit, didn't push it. He respected KC."

But when they got back to Manila, the rest's crossover chem-istry was unjustified.

"I'm at Manila ang mga bodyguing kissing scenes," Bernal quipped. "They would just stare from five-piece."

How did she pull it off? She gave KC a pep talk: "I told her that she should do the romantic scenes with Richard wholeheartedly. She should give her all."

KC delivered, the filmmaker noted.

"She exuded strength of character," Bernal said. "I like the way Richard and KC work."

Swallow in my throat may on Santorini helped seal the deal—especially since the popular dominion to report to the movie. KC and Richard's feel when they were asked by Star Cinema managing director Malou Santos whose they wanted to shoot.

"It looks different from the rest of Europe," she explained. "The blue of the sky and the sea are breathtaking."

E-mail: bgsansandiego@hotmail.com

KC GETS a last-minute touch-up... as co-star Candy Pangilinan waits for her cue.

SCRIPT for location. Delaying scenes here or for two.

ASIAN FOOD CHANNEL IS UP ON SKY CABLE CHANNEL 58

Filipino food lovers rejoice! Good news for their love of food. A specialty channel made a dream come true for Filipinos' appetite (and thirst). It means for the Asian Food Channel.

The Filipino food lovers admire were delighted with AFC's up and coming program. You can actually experience a new culinary adventure in your own backyard. Watch AFC's high quality programs that introduce new cuisines, highlight delicious food recipes and let you travel to different countries in your favorite food. Add to the Channel to enjoy!

AFC is carefully selected shows, AFC delivers an authentic, genuine, and passionate presentation on food cultures. With Asian Food programming, AFC brings to Filipino tables such tasteful delights such as Yummy Yung, Creative Chinese Cuisine and Kitchen Kung, to name a few. Viewers of AFC can watch these Thailand and of course, Asian Chefs as they create delicious and scrumptious.

AFC takes the audience straight to the heart of Asia. Each program is filled with passion, delight and appreciation for food. Filipino food lovers will be glad to know that AFC is now also in Cignal.

ABOUT AFC SKY FOOD

Asian Food Channel (AFC) is available in several Asian countries, including Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Brunei. For September 2, AFC is available in Philippines and in the cable of Asian area to viewers AFC is available.

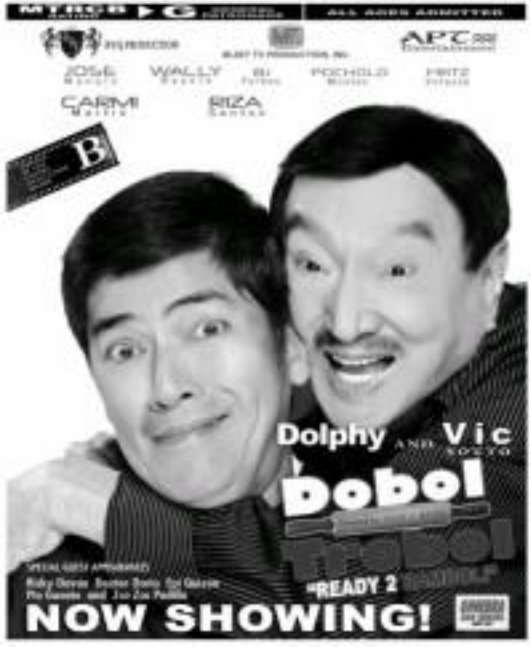
For more information on the channel's programme highlights and schedules, visit the official website at www.asianfoodchannel.com

The Channel was co-founded by Singaporean Shaw Kuo and Wilfred Wong Hoong, both of whom have extensive television experience in the region. The company is continually developing and expanding its programming and is now available in 10 countries and has partnerships with 27 networks. AFC provides 24hrs food programming from local cuisine to imported, and food network affiliates.

Visit the Asian Food Channel website at www.asianfoodchannel.com or facebook.com/asianfoodchannel

For further information please contact: Pauline Angela Chiong, Regional Marketing Manager, Asian Food Channel | 7 Ayer Rajah Avenue, #10-01/02 Singapore 138632 | Tel: +65 6496 9888 | Fax: +65 6496 9988 | Mobile: +65 9386 0923 | Email: pauline.chiong@asianfoodchannel.com

RICHARD confers with Greek coordinator Nike, while Direk Joyce preps a scene.



Passion drives...

Pressage 01

entertainment. Both media and audiences have a new responsibility to change the stereo quo for the future generation of media practitioners and audiences.

How long have you been aspiring to be a director? What was the final push?

Since high school. I have dreamt of being a director. When I went to Ateneo, I founded the film organization, the Loyola Film Circle. Some out of my passion for cinema. It still exists after more than a decade, still actively promoting film production and education. In Ateneo, I met Direk Marilou Diaz-Abaya. She would be my first employer after college. I was not on GMA Films' official payroll (for the movie "Muro-Ami"), it was from Erik Matti's pocket that my salary was drawn.

I am blessed with so many good and generous mentors. If I may just thank them: Direk Marilou Diaz-Abaya, for instilling in me the responsibility of filmmakers; Armando Lao, my writing and directing mentor who should take the credit for the innovative structure of the script; Jeffrey Amacion, who gave me my first directing break on TV, and who is my advisor on film direction; Lee Abaya, who gave me visual design tips; Ronnie Lazaro and Ethel Ruptrio, who gave me the break in "Sagrado"; Naparaly; Joel Mahoo Lazaro, Cliver Lazaro and Henry Quitain who exposed me to the world of commercials and television and supported me in my film debut.

Can you talk about the much-praised elements of your film—the film within a film structure, exploring exploitative journalism, innovative editing, and the suspense-filled ending you encouraged?

"Jay" is based on my work as a producer for a docu-drama show, and my interviews with reporters and producers from different networks. The structure, suggested by screenwriter Lee, best illustrates the point of manipulating audience perception. Editing and other elements emerged from the recurring themes of death and our ways of embellishing, altering or exploiting it.

I wanted the actors to be truthful in what they say and how they say it. I used improvisation techniques with them. I would change their lines—this posed a challenge, especially to actors who is used to memorizing lines. I think the process benefited the whole cast, as they were smiling-reacting to the present moment. They improvised many times, too.

Can you comment on directing Coco Martin?

Coco Martin is a natural. The impressive raw technique suited him well. His indie training really worked.

He is the only Filipino actor whose movies have been in the three major festivals this year: Cannes ("Serbis"), Berlin ("Tribute"), and now, Venice ("Jay").

What caution you most about attending the Venice Film Festival?

Everything. It's my first time to go to Europe and I am attending the oldest and one of the most prestigious festivals in the world. It's an honor to represent local cinema with Lav Diaz's "Melancholia." I have seen his films, "Death in the Land of Encantos." It's now one of my favorite Filipino films. I think the Venice film fest... it was the first international fest to honor a Filipino movie—"Genghis Khan." I also grew up with the Luigi de Laurentiis-founded Gir Film Office. The cash prize of $100,000 would pay all of my debts.

What's next?

I am researching and writing another story-serial set in Pampanga. (My father is from there.) I am currently researching on the term "Boys." I might make a trilogy—"Jay," "Boys" and then "L."

E-mail the columnist at rempalo_0306@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Napalm Report," at http://blogs.inquirer.net/napalmreport.

Kitty Go shares what she's learned /H4

Tiny Tacloban school is tops/H4

Editor Chelo Banal Formoso

LEARNING

MOTHER Teresa

MINDANAO "Mindy" Aquino

ALUNG San Suu Kyi

CLASS ACT Ayala Youth Congress participants with co-host chairs Ayala Corp.'s chair emeritus Jaime Zobel de Ayala and core Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, chair and CEO, and Fernando Zobel de Ayala, president and COO.

FORMER President Cory Aquino

Moral lessons

Look up to role models of extraordinary acts of selflessness

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

MENTORED NATIONAL LEADER Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino won among the leaders with moral courage who were held up as role models for the 24 students from 41 schools who attended the 2009 edition of the Ayala Youth Congress.

In his keynote address, Ayala Corp. chair and CEO Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala said moral courage referred to the strength of character to do what was right and necessary even in the face of possible risks to one's reputation, well-being, self-esteem or even life itself.

"Without courage and without conviction," Zobel said, "a leader is but a choir leader, a pied piper, perhaps a steering orator. Without principled action, our leadership may merely take the form of debates and pronouncements that will not have any impact on the situation at hand."

The focal point of the youth leadership camp was that the youth must strive to develop not just academic excellence but also a more difficult form of leadership, one characterized by moral courage.

A good leader must have a good sense of responsibility for the things around them. It was also not enough to be morally upright, said have Zobel cited the case of nun-saint Mother Teresa.

Zobel said the nun-saint didn't just pray. She also acted, she organized, she raised funds and she mustered not her sense of responsibility for the poor into a life of servant leadership."

Strength of character

Along with Mother Teresa, Zobel cited as models of moral courage persons-activists Mahatma Gandhi, human rights leader Martin Luther King, and Burma opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

The Ayala Corp. chair also named Aquino, whose assassination on Aug. 21, 1983, is being observed today as a national holiday, as well as the martyr's widow, former President Corazon Aquino, Filipino Jesuit martyrs in the US Armed Forces Antonio Taguba and murdered Navy Ensign Philip Andrew Pestaño, among others.

Zobel said he cited the bigger names only because they were people who made a huge differences.

"I mentioned names from another century and another time because they provided good leadership within their own spheres. What I am saying is that ordinary people can exhibit good leadership potentials through their own extraordinary acts of selflessness."

But can youth leaders still learn from negative examples of supposedly normal, day-to-day models in the government and in the military?

Learn from political antics

PMA military science student Andy Valera said he was not bothered by all the politicking in Congress and the Senate.

"I am determined to develop my leadership skills and I am focused on that. I treat their antics as a lesson on who we should and should not emulate," he added.

Psychology major Johaynah Mindalano from the Mindanao State University admitted that not all our elected officials were good leaders but they didn't disappoint her.

"What they are doing all the more strengthens my passion in really work and become a good leader. Their wrongdoings give us more challenge to do better."

Elementary education major Michelle Mae Olvido from the Cebu Normal University said she was actually writing down values our national leaders had failed and noting those who were setting a good example.

"When I see I am confused by bad examples in the national arena," Olvido said, "I turn to people who can inspire and help me grow in the right direction."

Ayala president Fernando Zobel de Ayala said youth leaders must actually add polish and figure out the role models who address present-day challenges.

Different challenges

"It's their generation that is in order and so they must define their own values and take it from there. The problems they are different and the challenges equally different. There may be situations only unique to this generation and thus they should define new leadership qualities and drive them in a better way with better results."

Coordinator, AYGC director Simon Montenegrin: "What we are telling our youth leaders in this congress is that it is not enough to be good in your chosen field. They should also develop a sense of responsibility for what is happening around them. They need also be good at helping the less fortunate sector of society."

INQUIRER IN EDUCATION

Hall of fame, hall of shame

A lesson plan on people in the news

THIS ENRICHMENT IN EDUCATION (EE) lesson plan focuses on people who are in the news for decisions and/or actions that may positively or negatively impact the society, community or even just a family.

This study guide is part of a series designed to help teachers and parents use the newspaper as a learning tool and to keep students interested in reading the newspaper every day. It may be used for students in grade school and high school, with some adjustments to fit the grade level and the learning ability of the class.

Teachers: If you are interested in using the lessons in your classrooms, e-mail learning@inquirer.com.ph or text 09153834061. Include your full name, your school and the grade level or subject(s) you teach.

Objective

Students will select stories from the newspaper on people whose decisions and/or actions have a positive or negative effect and classify them under Hall of Fame or Hall of Shame.

Materials

Copies of the lessons, copies of the Activity Sheet

Procedure

1. Make two columns on the board. Write "Hall of Fame" at the top of one column and "Hall of Shame" on the other.

2. Explain that the lessons tells us every day about people whose decisions and/or actions affect the world, a nation, a community or even just a family. Sometimes what people in the news do can have a positive impact and can qualify them for the Hall of Fame. At other times, people may be in the news for what may be perceived as negative and qualified them for the Hall of Shame. Now's the class that deciding who belongs in which hall can be as easy as they think. Newspaper readers may regard each person in the news differently.

3. Distribute copies of the lessons and the Activity Sheet.

4. Identify and discuss with the class one news item about a person who has made a significant contribution to society. As examples are Filipino political leader Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino, in whose honor this day has been declared a national holiday. Can his name be listed under the Hall of Fame? Invite students to share the reasons for their answers.

5. Instruct the students to find an article in the lessons of a person whose deed had or may have a negative effect on society or any group. Does this person belong to the Hall of Shame? Ask students to explain the reasons for their answers.

6. Have the students read through the pages of the lessons and encourage individuals on the Activity Sheet.

Activity Sheet

Directions: Look in the lessons for stories about people and write their names under the appropriate column where the effects of their decisions and/or actions belong.

Hall of Fame	Page No.	Hall of Shame	Page No.

1. When students have completed their worksheets, ask them to share with the class some of the names they selected. Discuss their reasons for placing each person in that Hall of Fame or the Hall of Shame. Ask if they can think of reasons that someone else might put such names in the other column. Look for examples where the students have placed the same person in different columns and discuss the reasons for this. Explain that the lists are a matter of opinion.

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Playgrounds for the MIND

UE entrance tests in Isabela, Zambales

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST (UE) will administer its college entrance tests from August to October to graduating high school students in Isabela and Zambales. The tests will be conducted at 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-5:30 p.m. in Zambales: Aug. 30, Olongapon City National High School, East Bajac-Bajac, Olongapon City; Sept. 6, Zambales National High School, Iba; and Sept. 13, St. Joseph College, East Bajac-Bajac, Olongapon City; in Isabela: Oct. 11, Isabela National High School, Baguio; Oct. 18, Cauayan National High School, Cauayan City; and Oct. 25, Santiago National High School, Santiago City. Application forms are available at the guidance offices of the testing venues. Tests are also conducted at 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m. from Monday to Saturday at the St. Martin and St. Catherine Administration Offices. Scholarships are available while tuition discounts and other benefits are extended to children of personnel, faculty members, employees of the Lucio Tan Group of Companies. (E. dionio, RC, CAR 13568711 to 82 loc. 398 or 399, 13568711 (UE Manila), 3814181, 3814182 loc. 160 (UE Caloocan); or log on to uesystem.edu.ph.

National Artist lectures at Adamson

WINSTON CRISEL JOSE, National Artist for Literature and Ramon Magsaysay Award winner, gave a lecture recently at Adamson University on the staging of his short musical play, "Pugon," at the university theater. Jose answered questions afterwards. The play was one of nine productions of the Culture Affairs Office (CAO) featuring Tanghalang Pilipino actors. The other play was Chris Martinez's "Welcome to Iskolahan." Nerida Dimapilis, CAO director, said the office had scheduled several cultural activities for school year 2008-2009.

UPH grad is 9th in board exam

JON TIMOTHY DE JARGO, Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy graduate of the University of the Perpetual Help (UPH) in Las Piñas, was sixth in the recent Physical Therapy Board Licensure Examination. Pilar is also got a rating of 83.5 percent, was one of 426 examinees who passed the board exam. UPH registered a 71-percent passing rate, higher than the national rate of 68 percent. Rowel was 3rd among physical therapy graduates on March 31. Prof. Antonio L. Tamayo, UPH president, CEO, said Rowel's feat proved that UPH graduates received quality education. The UPH Physical Therapy program is recognized by different foreign accrediting bodies.

PWU SIGNS MOU

The Philippine Women's University and San Carlos Seminary signed a Memorandum of Understanding to develop programs and exchanges enabling session blockwise/ educational arrangements leading to courses in religious and pastoral studies. The signing ceremonies at the San Carlos Seminary in Guadalupe, Makati, were attended by (seated) the Bishop of Manila Gaudencio Cardinal B. Rosales and PWU board chair Dr. Helena Z. Benitez. At the back are Msgr. Hernando Coronel, rector of San Carlos Seminary and Dr. Aniceto B. Sobrepeña, PWU president.

An afternoon with MDM proxy

Asian Week at Faith

FAITH ASIA INSTITUTE OF Technology and Humanities (Faith) in Tanauan City, Batangas, celebrates this month the 41st anniversary of the founding of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean). Activities lined up for the celebration are the Chief Search for the Young Asean Diplomat, the tenth Asean e-Quiz, Group Art competition, short-film making contest, Asean debates, and exhibits on Asean member countries. The yearly celebration is part of Faith's "Getting to Know Asean" program. Last year, iTutes visited by then Asean Secretary General Ong Kieng Yong as the only school in the Philippines to be part of the Asean Schools Tour, one of the programs of the association's secretariat based in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Angelicum holds ACCEPT for 2009-2010

THE ANGELICUM COLLEGE Career Entrance Placement Test (ACCEPT) will be administered for free to the first 250 interested applicants on Sept. 14, 8:30 a.m., at the Angelicum College, Quezon Office. The test is for students wanting to enroll in any of the courses offered in Angelicum: Culinary Arts, Multimedia Arts Management, Ship Cuisine and Restaurant Management, Communication Arts, Computer Science, Information Technology, Information System, Business Administration Major in Human Resource Development Management, Entrepreneurship, Education (Major in Mathematics or in Biological Science. To register, call 7114888, (632) 7609-4888 loc. 160/161/162/163, (632) 7114788, 7324160 loc. 143, or e-mail admission@feti1406@yahoo.com or admissions@angelicum.edu.ph.

IAME's Harvard group

A GROUP from the International Academy of Management and Economics (IAME) attended recently a course on Negotiation and Conflict Resolution conducted by the consortium of Harvard Business School, Harvard Law School, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Tufts University. The group was composed of Ireneo Martinez Jr., PhD, is Management, chief of staff of Rep. Ireneo Jr. M. Marcos; Ernesto Lo, PhD, in Management, managing director of Global Cycle Inc.; Jose Fidencio Rollo, PhD, in Management, president of RR Group; Grandeur Solutions, Management; and Emmanuel Noel T. Isaacs, PhD, IAME chair-CEO.

Fatima registers 100-percent passing rate in pharmacy test

THE COLLEGE OF PHARMACY of Our Lady of Fatima University (OLFU) has again registered a 100-percent passing rate in the recent pharmacy licensure examination. The feat earned it a fourth "Top Pie-forming School" award from the Board of Pharmacy of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC). This is the third consecutive time the college registered a 100-percent passing rate at the pharmaceutics chair examination. A total of 20 graduates took the exam. Fatima ranks second among schools with 41 to 70 examinees sent to the University of the Philippines Manila with 26 examinees.

SBC's Red Sea Lions eyeing 8th swim title

WITH THEIR RECENT entry the Hong Kong International Invitational Meet and the Taiwan Double Challenge in Phuket, Thailand, the San Beda College's Red Sea Lions' swimmers have now won 58 gold, 19 silver and 11 bronze medals. The team is now ready to defend its title in the National Collegiate Athletic Association where it has been champion for seven consecutive years. Coach Sandron Rivera says self-discipline and focus are keys to achieving their goals. Teamwork is the golden rule for the Sea Lions. Jerwin T. Sy, Garter alumni and team manager, encourages the new generation of SBC students to devote the right amount of time to study, play and exercising. Hector H. Matt de Jesus, CEB, reminds the existing team that the reason have behind it all is tuition fund.

Claret alumnus brings 'Bright Child' to Alaminos

CLARET SCHOOL OF GOZON (CSG) alumnus Mayor Arnulfo A. Respicio (CSG 1957-1961) of Alaminos, Pangasinan, launched recently the Bright Child Program. The program is designed to help children be the best they can be, develop their multi-intelligence and upgrade their performance level. It is a completely free results in the 2004 National Achievement Test (NAT) of Grade 6 pupils in Alaminos. Respicio it led among 17 Alaminos in the Ilocos Region and 1668 among 168 divisions in the country. Respicio said in a recent visit to the school, with the program, the city's elementary and secondary students ranked sixth and eighth, respectively, in the Ilocos Region, in the 2007 NAT.

CENTRO Escolar University held recently its annual Quality Awards Day to pay tribute to the men and women who work for the school's continued success. Awardees were: BSBA Management student Jeffery Nino Luces, Bow CEU USARS; Science student Rebecca Suggui (not in entry); HRM Instructor Ruth Noel P. Agatiz, Best Quality Circle; Dr. Betty N. Lozano and Ruth R. Santos, New Internal Quality Auditor automatic Reverse; Ms. Bonnaventure and Celina M. Tiongson, Outstanding Non-Teaching Employees; and Rowena D. Lucero, Outstanding Teacher of the Year. Lucero (center) is shown with (L-R) senior vice president Dr. Teresa R. Perez, guest speaker and Pamantasang Lungsod ng Maynila president Atty. Adel A. Tamano, Commission on Higher Education commissioner Dr. Rosalyn Orbeta, and CEU president Dr. Ma. Cristina D. Padolina.

Outstanding UST alumni for architecture

MELANIO TOLENTINO, Jr., president and chief executive officer of architecture and design firm Bellas Philippines, Inc., received The Outstanding Alumni in (TOWA) Award in Architecture for 2008 from the University of Santo Tomas. A 1980 graduate, Tolentino was recognized for upholding the Thomasian ideals of competence, compassion, and commitment in professional and personal endeavors. The Total awards, a project of the UST Alumni Associations Inc. (USTAA), is the highest recognition bestowed by the university and USTAA on alumni who have excelled in their respective fields. Photo shows (from left) UST rector Fr. Rolando de la Rosa, O.P., Melanio Tolentino, UST Architecture Alumni Association president Nestor Mangio, and USTAA president Louis Isaac Acuna.

Assignment: DepEd

Testing, testing . . . 1,2,3 . . . even 4

By Jerry E. Esplanada

OVER 1.4 MILLION HIGH school seniors will take the National Career Assessment Examination (NCAE) on Aug. 27.

To be administered by the Department of Education's National Education Testing and Research Center (NETRC), it is one of four tests conducted annually by the department.

The other examinations are the National Achievement Test (NAT) for Grades 3 and 6 and second year high school students, Philippine Education Placement Test (PEPT) for out-of-school youth, and the Accreditation and Equivalency (A&E) test for private and secondary school dropouts.

Education Secretary Jesli A. Lapus said the NCAE aimed to "enable students to better assess their career options based on their own skills and fields of interest."

The test "evaluates not only the students' academic aptitude but also their technical and vocational capabilities, as well as entrepreneurial skills."

But unlike the old National College Entrance Examination (NCEE), the NCAE was designed solely to give students career guidance and was not a requirement for admission to college, Lapus said.

Placement test

He said DepEd wanted to minimize the mismatch in career choices and students' skills and inclinations. The NCAE, the secretary said, would hopefully serve as the students' guide in choosing suitable courses.

The test includes general scholastic aptitude (GSA), technical-vocational aptitude, and interest and skills and occupational interests.

Before the end of the year, the DepEd will conduct the PEPT that aims to "put school dropouts in their proper elementary grade or high school year placement," said NETRC head Nelda Benitez.

About 40,000 dropouts took last year's PEPT. The test is administered by DepEd's Bureau of Alternative Learning System (BALS).

Held every November, the test is open to learners who have been out of school for at least two years. It is designed to be taken once again do not respond to the grade or year when they dropped out.

The PEPT covers English, Filipino, Science, Mathematics and Makabayan Araling Panlipunan). Examinees are charged a registration fee of P50.

Equivalency test

In February, some 99,000 school dropouts took the A&E test, which "measures life skills and determines if one is functionally literate."

According to BALS Director Carolina Guerrero, a functionally literate person is "one who can communicate effectively, solve problems scientifically, creatively and think critically; use resources sustainably; be productive, develop oneself, and expand his or her world view."

The test is also intended to "validate and records knowledge and skills in academic areas gained through nonformal courses for re-entry into formal schools, entry to job training or employment," said Guerrero.

Adult test takers should at least be 11 years old for the elementary level and 15 years old for the secondary level.

The 120 multiple choice-item test is

GRADUATING high school seniors at Gov. Feliciano Leviste Memorial National High School in Lemery, Batangas during the school year 2007-2008 National Career Assessment Examination (NCAE)

written in English and Filipino "in line with the bilingual policy of the DepEd," said Guerrero.

The test subjects are Komunikasyong Pangkomunikasyon, Kasanayan sa English, Mathematical at Pang-agham, Kakayahan sa Lohika at Pagsusuri, and Pagpapahalaga sa Sarili.

Achievement test

The NAT, administered every March, covers five subjects: English, Filipino, Mathematics, Science and Makabayan Araling Panlipunan.

According to DepEd figures, some 1.9 million Third graders and 1.7 million sixth grade students from over 37,000 public schools nationwide took the NAT this year. Another 1.3 million high school seniors also took the test.

According to Benitez, the top-making schools this year are Molino Elementary School, Cavite in District 1 (schools with 400 and above examinees), Sison, SE Espiritu Elementary School, Cavite in District 2 (schools with 399-299 examinees), Libis Molino IV Elementary School, Cavite in District 3 (schools with 150-299 examinees), Mandaluyong Elementary School, Barbosa, in District 4 (schools with 50-149 examinees), Interboun Elementary School, Bulacan, in District 5 (schools with 25-54 examinees) and Malagasac Elementary School, Southeast Leyte, in District 6 (with 10 or less examinees).

The NAT aims to "determine the students' achievement level, strengths and weaknesses, and identify those who require remedial classes," said Benitez.

The little school . . .

From page 1H

the country.

Alma Rivera, one of the thirty grade teachers said she was happy that all their efforts "paid off handsomely."

The teaching practice that the gained while working in a private school in Cebu helped her in guiding the students by the limit, she said. "Our secret, which is not really a secret, was review, review and more review," said the mathematics teacher, who is a native of Cebu City.

Quirante said the review sessions held from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday.

"This early, we are preparing for our review so that we can maximize our standing. But we are not pushing it too much," the proud principal said.

Tops in Tacloban

The Eisenhower Community Elementary School is one (1) years old and operates with 14 teachers. It has nine school buildings, including a record hall, on a 2,724-square-meter lot.

For the past two years, it has been topping the NAT with 10 other elementary schools within the Tacloban City Schools Division.

"I am really proud of my teachers and students. Actually our achievement was a result of the cooperation among all of us. Even first grade teachers, for example, had extended help during the reviews that we conducted for the NAT," Quinteros said.

The school received financial assistance from the city government totaling P95,000, or P50,000 for the school's 14 teachers; P30,000 for instructional materials procurement; and P15,000 for Quinteros.

EUREKA! *Queenie N. Lee-Chua*

Let's hear it for our best young scientists

WHEN CONSTANCIO Anin was 4 years old, he would help his parents pull rice seedlings in their farm in Ormoc City, Leyte. A year later, the little boy already knew how to straighten the seedlings.

The fourth of nine children of rice farmers, Anin supported himself through school by selling candies and peanuts to his classmates.

In 1999, Anin finished his bachelor's degree in Agricultural at the Visayas State College, and soon started work as a "science aide" at the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) in Nueva Ecija.

Anin went for further studies in Japan, supported by the Japanese government. He returned home and focused his efforts on agriculture here.

Another Leyte native, Hendy Godrese, spent her childhood on the "13th prettiest and pacific-blue sand" of Barbay City. The second of five children of public school teachers, Dalwel graduated magna cum laude and joined the Institute of Plant Breeding at the University of the Philippines at Los Baños (UPLB).

Dalwel is now working on her thesis, supervised by Dr. Ernesto Guiterrez, a professor at the UPLB Institute of Plant Breeding

Kitty Go

Writer and stylebloger

What I've learned

Get to the playground early

I AM A SLOW LEARNER. IT took me six years to learn how to access the shortcut to addresses on my mobile phone. By the time I learned it, I couldn't even trade the phone in for a biscuit candy.

I'm surprised I am still amazed by many basic each-other-human-ness that other eight-year-old managers and newbie freshers point out. I only found out yesterday that my husband doesn't like pasta. He prefers curry.

Despite being a slow learner, I have at least educated a few things. In fact so few that I think I could be borderline uneducated. Here are the things I have learned. I've picked up from the playground like food free or at home when I got into trouble in... you guessed it!... the playground.

Of course I do not recommend not getting an education unless you have something like Facebook up and running with business ads by second grade.

What I am saying is that high school, university and post-graduate studies were a complete waste of my time and effort. But that's my personal experience and everyone's is different. The only things I learned at school were meeting boys, gossiping with legs and laughing at other people's clothes—everything that I continue to do today and get paid to do in the serious business of fashion and beauty! Who knew the fluffy business of dress-up would take over our lives as soon the air we breathe (Hooray Nicki minaj-es, anyone?).

Here are a few things I picked up in the house-deciding school to wear and where to have lunch:

It's good to get to the playground early so you can start working with your bunny, but it is even better to have proved the older boys are your body will always be on your buddy system or, worse, know how to climb it.

This will later apply to your entry-level job where you'll have to line up in the copy machine only for someone to cut in "for the best tech coaching." But if you were friends with the Xerox lady that can't really count happen.

The older uncle or prettier girls in high school will only get as far as the school gates. This is where patience, the right clothes and a good hairdresser will turn the corner into spectacular into the likely in Boston logic.

Have you ever noticed how some people are naturally school-wide who seem to good looking and who are voted as most likely to end up pulling when you were younger have become comfortably provincial or unrecognizably successful in general? Try going to a high school reunion.

Getting an "E" doesn't exactly mean you're a loser. It just means you studied. Of course it's a good idea to help to have half a B+ brain and the discipline of studying if you want to become a lifestyle that can look back to success-a-phobia, but when you have to pitch an actress to Hollywood, studying physics in the library is not as good a pitch as prison experience [points] on a Pentecostalist pit.

Don't ever let anyone convince you to learn a musical instrument, play a sport or get married.

Instruments are a pain to travel with, let alone learn, and there are always CDs in bins "you can even iPod just by searching names on TV" categorized by playing and suffering in the bed. If you don't yet. Marriage and child-bearing are other most over-rated joys in this world that no one will admit it because they are stuck with them for one minutes for life. Unlike a plasma TV (which will probably bring you more joy), you can't return them to the store even if you have a receipt. In fact, even with a signed prenup there will can be huge problems.

Not everyone wants to talk to you as you torture spend most of your time with people who do.

Smart journalists are surprised that there are actually people who don't want to talk to them. Unfortunately for the shoulders in my profession, there are some people who have better things to do than entertain the media. Mary CEOs would rather give a full day to shareholders than an hour to the media unless they are to publish bigger than the front of a tabloid headline.

I've had my share of people who didn't mind to give me interviews and there who offered and gave me the things I have learned. I've picked up from the playground like food free or at home when I got into trouble from them!

American writer and humorist Fran Lebowitz told The London Times, "The best chance to a writer's chance. It's enough to get a table at a good restaurant, but not enough that you can get interrupted when you eat." That is where you get the chance to say to people who refuse to give you interviews, gossip and laugh at [with-Gossip] people who don't know who you are.

You have to listen, on the very least. The language of your parents and the country you grew up in were born in. Plus English. Extra Brolin brownie points for other languages.

This rule came about because my parents are immigrant Chinese and they made me learn the language simply because we are Chinese. Even on the night of birth before birth (boy), there was absolutely no denying our heritage. And the size of our eyes.

Forty years ago, China was not the super power we know today. When I was growing up you got sent to China to Taiwan on a punishment for: a) failing Chinese and did not do the all-nuts-suffering that would happen every day in our country and we'd have to talk to other students in school that the mothers or the maths would never accept you for a Chinese school with no schooling and no running water would—China in those days was no globetrotters you wouldn't send your dead dog there. Today it is booming but we hope we will collapse.

Now that I travel a lot, I can see what my mother meant when she would exclaim, "How will you explain to foreigners that you can't speak your own language?" Good point. I guess I wouldn't be able to, would I? But you can say one language. Of course we all know how handy Tagalog is would be like that's another story.

Your reputation is like a restaurant. People will always come to you with preconceptions but you better know them with a good taste to their mouths.

I know my bitchy prose and reputation make people think completely of me but when they meet me for the first time, people are usually pleasantly surprised. In fact, shocked—and I don't get the correct table. Just kidding. I think there's better than eating spit front of blowhard "first being rude when I'm curious you talking. The wonderful me has married those who have multiple personalities that serve multiple purposes.

Oscar Wilde told The Sunday Telegraph (UK), "Your novel, speak so well—and you'll never be invited to a party." This is why Dumb and C-Span are so boring and the elementary school PTA is one big reality show!

Kitty Go is the author of two of the country's best-selling novels, "When Chic Flits the Fan" and "Chic Happens." She is working on her third novel entitled "Who Chews a Chic." It will be her last novel of the chic-O series and is slated for a first quarter 2009 release. Visit her blog at http://thestylebuffet.blogspot.com/

The little school that could

For topping this year's National Achievement Test for sixth graders, Marasbaras Elementary will get a visit from the education secretary

By Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

"BOLOGNA CITY—A PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL in a small community in this city has topped the recently held National Achievement Test (NAT), a test that will enroll a visit from the education secretary later this month.

The Marasbaras Community Elementary School topped the 2008 NAT to cluster 4 (schools with 35-99 enrollment) with a Mean Performance Systems (MPS) rating of 91.17 percent, an achievement attributed by school principal Arnaldo Quinteros to the "dedication" of the teachers and students.

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus is reportedly coming for a visit on Aug. 28 to personally convey his congratulations. Lapus will be the first education secretary to visit the school, said Quinteros.

Sifton NAT was first held in 2005, the school, which has a current student population of 919, posted a rating of 86.73 percent. In 2006, it had a rating of 87.23 percent and in 2007, it's rating increased by .86 percent.

For this year, its school card reads as follow: Mathematics, 99.3 percent; Filipino, 97.60 percent; English, 97 percent and Science, 87 percent.

One of its students, Arlyn Earl Ua, ranked second nationwide. He is now studying in a public high school in Bacoli, Bilicon, the principal said.

Quinteros said they were hoping that their rating for this year's NAT would be higher than what they had achieved in the past three years but they did not expect to land on top of all the elementary schools in

A BANNER proclaims that Marasbaras Community Elementary School tops the national achievement test.

PLAYTIME at HCES has one hour in which children from scoring 91.3 percent in Math and 97 percent in English.

FIELD TRIPS, ANYONE?

Interactive dinosaurs due in town

CHILDREN WILL GET A CHANCE to learn more about dinosaurs in a fun way when the pre-historic animals "come" the mall starting this month.

The biggest interactive exhibition of robotic dinosaurs in the Philippines, "Dinosaurs Are Back," will be presented by Robinsons Malls from August to October.

Nine fully automated robotic dinosaurs will be on display in Robinsons Place Manila, Sept. 22-28, and Robinsons Ermita/Robinsons Place Manila, Sept. 22-28, and Robinsons Ermita/Robinsons Pavilion, Oct. 4-25.

The exhibit will be open daily, mall hours, from 10 am.

The exhibition is coming to the country after record-setting tours in France and Germany and an extremely popular long-term showing in Tivoli, Copenhagen.

Mike Rhapa, general manager of Robinsons Malls, said exact replicas of dinosaurs from four different time periods—Late Jurassic, Early Cretaceous, Late Cretaceous and Late Pleistocene—would be on show.

"Dinosaurs are Back" will feature Tyrannosaurus Rex, Seismosaurus, Triceratops, Apatosaurus, Argentinosaurus Body Dimetrodon, Parasaurolophus, Stegosaurus and Stegosaurus baby.

The dinosaurs will weigh 225-800 kilograms and range in size from 1.7 meters x 1.2 meters to 5.8 meters x 2.6 meters.

Eunice Gonzales, museum director, Robinsons Malls, said the dinosaurs would be animated and displayed in a simulation of their original habitats, complemented with lights and sounds.

Full scientific information and detailed facts about the dinosaurs—names, diets, weight, social habits, habitat and era—will be provided.

Entrance fee to Robinsons Malls' "Dinosaurs are Back" exhibit is P25. Group tours are accepted. For advance bookings, call 6836100 local 706/761.

BABY Pachycephalosaurus

DEINONYCHUS or Terrible Claw

STEGOSAURUS or plated lizard is one of nine robotic dinosaurs to be exhibited in three Robinsons malls.